

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

17 SEPTEMBER 1981

Lebanon

Explosions--KUNA reported that a huge explosion early on 17 September devastated the PLO's regional headquarters in Sidon as well as a number of adjoining buildings. Reporting that an as yet unnamed senior Palestinian military official was killed in the blast, KUNA noted that 10 bodies had so far been recovered but that many more remained buried amid the debris. KUNA said the explosion emanated from a vehicle carrying about 200 kg of TNT. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, another explosion in the northern town of Shikka the same day killed 10 persons and injured at least that number. AFP disclosed that an anonymous caller claimed that "the Lebanese Foreigners' Liberation Front" was responsible for both explosions.

General Security Situation--Beirut radio reported on 16 September that Lebanese and Syrian security officials, meeting in Shtawrah, discussed the question of the withdrawal of "some Syrian units" from the hilltops and areas surrounding Zahlah. The radio also noted the arrival in Beirut of 13 AMX-13 tanks donated to the Lebanese Army by the French Government. Other reports by the radio focused on renewed clashes between local organizations in the Ash-Shiyah area of southern Beirut. The radio said the clashes continued until late in the evening when intensive contacts by security chiefs with the parties concerned halted the fighting.

Syria

AFP, citing an announcement made by the Syrian Embassy in Moscow, reported the "imminent" arrival of a Syrian military delegation that is expected to press the USSR for increased arms aid.

Egypt

In a French television interview reported by MENA and dealing in part with whether U.S.-Egyptian relations will be closer as a result of recent Egyptian domestic and anti-Soviet developments, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali affirmed that his nation is committed to maintaining a balance between the Eastern and Western blocs since it is a nonaligned state and an OAU member that supports the organization's commitment to nonalignment.

Israel

Begin press conference--Speaking at a Ben-Gurion Airport press conference broadcast live by IDF radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said the Israeli and U.S. defense ministers will hold further talks on strategic cooperation in November when they will sign a memorandum that will be published. Refusing to divulge details of his recent meeting with Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Begin said there is no confrontation between Israel and the U.S. Administration. He reiterated that his country and the United States are allies and friends but disclosed that the idea of a written U.S.-Israeli mutual defense treaty was not mentioned during his discussions in Washington. Noting that he personally favors such an alliance, Begin said the initiative for a treaty should come from the United States rather than Israel.

Relations With Egypt--Jerusalem radio reported that Egyptian-Israeli misunderstandings resulting from Chief of Staff Lt Gen Rafa'el Eytan's reported remarks about the instability of President Anwar as-Sadat's regime have now been resolved in the wake of a meeting between Israel's ambassador in Cairo and Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah. The radio reported earlier that Egyptian-Israeli normalization talks in Jerusalem have made "marked progress."

Steadfastness and Confrontation Front

Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland radio broadcast live the ceremony held in Suluq, Libya, marking the 50th anniversary of the execution of Libyan patriot 'Umar al-Mukhtar. In attendance were the leaders of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front--Libyan leader Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat--as well as Iranian and Chadian representatives. Al-Qadhdhafi spoke at both the opening and conclusion of the ceremony, devoting his remarks to praise of Al-Mukhtar and avoiding any references to either domestic or foreign current political developments. Syrian President al-Asad delivered a strong attack against the United States for "sponsoring" Israel, which he identified as a "racist Zionist movement." Al-Asad said U.S. "strategic cooperation" with Israel signifies the beginning of a "new and serious" phase in U.S.-Israeli dealings, involving direct U.S. confrontation with the Arabs in an attempt to block the path to a just solution or a just peace in the Middle East. He asserted, however, that the United States is mistaken if it thinks the Arab nation will capitulate. The U.S.-Israeli agreement will only succeed, he said, in creating more explosive lines of division.

Iran

AFP reported that most Tehran newspapers gave wide coverage to 'Ali Khamene'i's candidacy in the forthcoming presidential elections, downplaying that of Prime Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani. KEYHAN, the only paper to report on Mahdavi-Kani's candidacy, said the prime minister may step down before the election.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation--According to Tehran radio, Iranian planes bombed and blew up part of an Iraqi oil platform and downed an Iraqi MIG aircraft. Iranian aircraft also destroyed two Iraqi naval vessels, the radio said, and Iranian ground fire sank an Iraqi ship in the Shatt al-'Arab. An Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by INA said Iraqi aircraft staged successful raids in the southern sector of the battlefield and did not mention any Iranian raids on Iraq.

Fallahi Press Conference--Speaking at a press conference reported by Tehran radio, Iranian Armed Forces Joint Staff Acting Chief Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi claimed that since 23 October 1980 Iranian forces have recaptured more than half of the Iranian territory occupied by the Iraqi Army in the first weeks of the war. Asserting that Iraq had massive superiority over Iran in the number of its tanks and other heavy equipment at the outset of the conflict, he said the Iraqis had nevertheless more than twice as many combatants killed or captured as the Iranians.

FBIS

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ISLAMIC CONGRESS CONDEMNS U.S.-ISRAEL COOPERATION

LD161100 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0933 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Jidda, 16 Sep (SPA)--The Secretariat of the Islamic Congress Organization has issued a statement condemning the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, stressing that this agreement will make it possible for the Zionist entity to continue its aggressions against and expansion in the Arab territories, and it will block the path to peace. The statement, which was issued by the organization's Secretary General Mr Habib Chatti, says that making Israel a strategic U.S. base in the Middle East will justify the setting up of strategic bases in the region in the interests of others, and this will turn the Middle East into an arena of conflict between the Eastern and Western blocs. The Secretariat adds that it is time the Middle East problem is resolved in a way that guarantees the rights and interests of the peoples of the region.

Following is the text of the statement:

At a time when Israel is bent on escalating its aggressive operations against the Arab nation, and after its attack on the Iraqi Tammuz nuclear reactor and its frequent aggressions against Lebanon and also its bombing of Beirut; it is at this time in particular that the whole world was awaiting the attitude which the United States would adopt, it being directly responsible for this escalation in view of the weapons, and financial and political support it is giving Israel. Washington is also expected to adopt a resolution to check the Israeli defiances, to preserve peace and stability in the region and to protect international security, and also to take into consideration the feelings of the Arab and Muslim peoples who can no longer tolerate this American-Israeli alliance against them.

Everybody, in the Arab world, in the East and in the Third World alike, was expecting this as it conforms with sound logic which is in line with the principles of the United States itself, with the UN resolutions and with world public opinion which has come to realize that the situation has become so grave that it might endanger peace and that it is time the Middle East problem is resolved in a way that guarantees the rights and interests of all the peoples of the region.

However, the U.S. reply to all this was an American escalation which makes Israel an ally and a partner of the United States in its international strategy, increasing Israel's military and political power and opening the door for it to continue its aggressions.

This American decision had had a grave impact on the Arab and Muslim world, because it encourages Israel's stubbornness to expand in the Arab territories, and it blocks the path to peace. Making Israel a strategic American base in the Middle East will justify the setting up of other strategic bases in the region in the interests of others, thus turning the Middle East region into an arena for conflict between the Eastern and Western blocs, and making the Palestinian cause a secondary issue of limited importance.

The continuation of U.S. support for Israel is making it stronger every day, while the Zionist entity continues to reject the peaceful solution which the Arabs advocate. This prompts the Arab and Muslim states to wonder what future relations they will have with a great power which has allied itself with an entity which is in a state of war with countries that have political and economic relations with the United States.

'ARAFAT ON U.S.-ISRAELI 'THREAT TO ARABS'

NC161046 Paris AFP in English 0959 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Algiers, 16 Sep (AFP)--Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Arab world to use every possible weapon, including an oil embargo, to "respond effectively to the danger which threatens its future, its civilisation and its existence."

In an interview published today in the Algerian daily EL MOUDJAHID Mr 'Arafat, who has just made a brief visit to Algiers for talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, called the recent strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel "a threat to the whole Arab nation."

The agreement makes Israel "an unconditional ally and a gigantic storehouse of weapons," Mr 'Arafat said. "It is a threat not only to the Palestinian revolution but the whole Arab nation and its succeeding generations."

On the use of the "oil weapon" by Arab producer countries Mr 'Arafat said it was a question of what strategy was appropriate under the circumstances. "Are the Arabs really aware of the need to use this weapon. He asked, "Do we still have it or have we lost it?"

The question would figure at the next Arab summit, Mr 'Arafat said, adding "we have to examine the possibility" of withholding oil from the West for political purposes.

The Arab world must use not only oil but its other wealth to respond to the danger threatening it, Mr 'Arafat said. "We must use our weapons in the commercial and economic fields, parallel with our human and military strength."

Mr 'Arafat said the next Arab summit in Rabat in November would also consider "clearly and objectively" the peace plan for the Middle East proposed recently by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia so that Arabs could agree on a common position.

The peace plan, which calls for a Jordan West Bank Palestinian state but implies the right of Israel to exist within its pre-1967 borders, was "a first positive step to a fair and global solution of the Middle East problem," Mr 'Arafat said.

He stressed the need for vigilance, however. "We have detected attempts internationally as well as internally to force us to declare an official definitive position on the question before the Fahd plan has been debated by the Rabat summit," Mr 'Arafat said.

PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN MEETINGS BEGIN IN AMMAN

JN161052 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Amman, 16 Sep (INA)--The meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee for Bolstering the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Arab Land began here today and will last several days. The committee will discuss several issues related to strengthening the Palestinian people's struggle and steadfastness against the Zionist occupation authorities and their aggressive practices.

The Jordanian side is headed by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs; the Palestinian side, by PLO Executive Committee member Hamid Abu Sittah, who arrived here yesterday.

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES SOVIET EXPULSION

NC161030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 15 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il gave an interview to Egyptian television tonight regarding the decision which the Cabinet adopted at today's meeting under the chairmanship of Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak concerning diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. The following is the text of the interview:

Question: Mr Deputy Prime Minister, at the beginning it behooves us to ask about the reasons for the exposure of the hostile face of Soviet policy immediately after the president used his constitutional powers?

Answer: This is in fact a vitally important question. This vital importance stems from the fact that it gives us an explanation and throws light on the present situation and on today's decisions. We have all lived through the period which leader President as-Sadat assumed his constitutional responsibilities at the end of 1970 under very difficult and complex circumstances. One can discuss this at length. It later became clear that the president's endeavor had a strategic, basic and vital goal--that of liberating the land and removing the effects of the setback on June 1967.

Isma'il added: The leader commander has realized, through his historical and important struggle and experience, that this dear and cherished goal can be achieved only through what we then called putting the house in order and domestic affairs on a sound basis, or in an appropriate position to shoulder the great responsibility of liberating the land. This was done because of his belief that the people cannot endure sacrifices or liberate the land with all the hardship, sacrifices and danger this entails, unless they believe in their country and deeply feel his affiliation with the domestic situation. The circumstances under which the leader assumed his responsibilities were difficult. At that time the centers of power were dominating the state's constitutents and institutes or machinery, because there were no real institutes. The Soviets had special relations with the centers of power and could achieve their objectives and goals through them.

Isma'il added: Severe extraordinary measures were in force in Egypt at the time. I was aware of this because at the outset of the May Revolution I was assigned the post of chief of the interior minister's office. At the time there was not security or safety and no citizen was sure of his livelihood, life, honor or interests. When the leader tried to guide the march and put things in their right place, the centers of power opposed him. That was natural because any person holding a specific and unusual position will not give this up easily when someone tries to counsel them or put them on the right course. This was the president's method as confirmed by all the events through which he lived with him during the 11 years. He leads our march and tries to guide and make corrections once or twice. However, when matters do not proceed on their correct course and threaten the march, or endanger or harm the people's interest, he adopts clear and decisive stands, as he usually does in all his decisions, regardless of their consequences.

Consequently, when he was unable to guide the situation at home, he carried out the May Revolution. The Soviet Union was disturbed because it used to depend on some elements in the centers of power as its pillars. It became concerned about its interests since these elements were taking care of these interests and were implementing or assisting the Soviet Union to implement them. The leader commander has proved that throughout our history we have had an open book and as he always said there is nothing ambiguous in our policy and in our affairs. It is an open book before the people and a clear, declared and frank one with no secrets. In our relations, we put Egypt's interests above everything else without prejudicing the interests of any other party dealing with us.

There is no selfishness and no misunderstanding of the requirements of the era, history and international politics. All this was made clear by the president. Egypt's interest in preserving its dignity, sovereignty, independence and territory within the framework of equal, balanced or mutual interests between it and any other side--be it in the East or West. We have no complexes. We made ourselves independent and the decision is ours. Our course is that of Egypt's interest and if we can't achieve this, we stop and correct our course. We are independent and there are no complexes or fear. This is the course we are following in our work.

The Soviet Union was almost the main and only source supplying us with arms for our broad goal--the liberation of the land. We had to safeguard this source as a big power supporting us, since all other sources were closed to us. At the same time, Israel was monopolizing the United States through wrong concepts. Regrettably, we used to affirm these concepts and allow Israel to monopolize the United States through wrong concepts. Some Arabs are still submerged in these up to their ears because they do not know what is in our interest and how to tackle the Israeli-Arab conflict. We were a party to these politics and stands while Israel was monopolizing the United States. We had no alternative but to turn to the Soviet Union for arms as a big power which politically supported us. The president preserved this situation and tried--while directing the march at home through the May Revolution--to guide Egyptian-Soviet relations and put them within a correct and sound framework. As we all know, he exerted great efforts, which he has spoken of several times. He traveled a great deal and made suggestions until it was apparent to him that it was a hopeless case.

The Soviet Union had specific goals and interests in Egypt--to secure the whole area in view of Egypt's influence and position. It is a historical fact that Egypt was and will remain forever an influential factor in the area in relation to the Middle East, to the Arab states, Africa and to all Islamic countries in the world. This was a historical fact and one which will remain for ever. The Soviet Union did not attempt to change its policy and lacked the sagacity that it was dealing with the command and leadership. It should have realized President as-Sadat's idea and method and tried--and this also requires skill--to alter its move in accordance with the new situation facing it, instead of behaving as it did in the fifties and sixties. This was not possible and it became apparent to the president that it was a hopeless case. The Soviet Union's stand regarding the cherished cause--the liberation of the land--turned against our interests. We need only recall, for instance, the question of no peace, no war and the military relaxation in the area. It was as though they were the masters of the situation and we were the lackeys, saying yes to the state of relaxation and yes to no peace, no war.

They had the arms to supply us. It became apparent that they failed to fulfill their commitments to supply spare parts, arms and to provide the necessary training. When it became clear to the president that it was a hopeless case and that the situation would develop to Egypt's detriment, he--as is his custom in resolving fateful issues--adopted a stand regarding the Soviet Union and expelled the Soviet experts. This was a historical decision which will remain on record. The decision, as we know, was implemented easily and in record time. He then started preparing for the battle, and after a few months we entered the historical battle of Ramadan--October--and we scored victory through the great transformations. A great deal can be said about any of these events, including the expulsion of the Soviet experts, and its changes, effects, dimensions and importance as a fateful decision, and about the Ramadan war. A great deal can be said about these. The Ramadan (October) war broke out. From the very first day the Soviet Union started to sabotage things between us and Syria, conveying misleading information that they wanted to halt the fighting and wanted us to stop.

Things were clear on the horizon. Miracles were achieved in crossing the canal. The Soviet Union's stands were clear and it failed to fulfill its obligations to supply spare parts, arms and provide training according to the established timetable. It started to breach the treaty we had between us, a treaty which the president had concluded when he found them concerned after the May Revolution.

We have our independence and the treaty was to reassure them. We are loyal people and the treaty included commitments by both parties, but we would not give up our will. They failed to fulfill these commitments and the president abrogated the treaty and expelled the Soviet experts. We had scored a victory without them being a party to it. Their image was shaken by the abrogation of the treaty. They were the cause of this, not us. They failed to fulfill their commitments and persisted in interfering in our will, in controlling our resources, influencing the national Egyptian decision and in besieging our political, economic and military decisions. Naturally, the president rejected this. In doing so, he was actually expressing the will of all the Egyptian people. This was the reason for the success of his decisions. The masses interacted with him, eagerly reflecting the conscience of every patriotic Egyptian citizen. This needs to be underlined as there was a minority of agent Egyptian citizens who used to cast doubts about the Ramadan, October war, about the abrogation of the treaty and about the expulsion of the Soviet experts.

The Soviet Union started adopting a hostile policy toward us on the international level. It wanted to spoil our relations with the Arab countries and the Palestinians. It started imposing a blockade around us--beginning with Libya, as we can see today. Aden has become a Soviet base and it entered the Horn of Africa. In short, it started encircling us. With regard to the peace process, its stance was also disgraceful. It claimed to be working for international peace and this is always reflected in its slogans and announcements. Alright, the opportunity to achieve an overall and just peace to the benefit of all parties presented itself--otherwise we wouldn't have supported it. But it behaved in a very ugly manner and took a negative stance toward it--even recently when it was about to use its veto with regard to the [multinational] peace force in the Sinai, which will follow the final phase [of the Israeli withdrawal]. Its influence and authority over Syria and the Palestinians and the rejectionist countries against the peace process became very apparent. The situation in Libya is similar to that in South Yemen. Then it started tampering with the Gulf--particularly after the Iranian revolution. The USSR's stand toward us on the political level became evident in its intent to reschedule debts as well as starting to create other problems on the political, economic and military levels, such as the [nondelivery of] spare parts. Thus, the president started to diversify the sources of weapon purchases so there wouldn't be anybody holding a sword over our head like the Soviet Union was trying to do by dominating us in this respect.

It was only natural for the president to want to place our relations with the Soviet Union in their proper perspective so that the USSR would no longer impose its will on us, interfere in our domestic affairs or influence our resolutions, which stem from nationalist considerations, as happened during the period when it tried to dominate us or succeeded in dominating us politically, militarily and economically.

When the president took this stand, it was a natural reaction. So, the alternative would have been for the USSR to adjust its policies and behave as a friendly country to create compatible, balanced and joint relations--as indicated by the president recently when he said we would [have relations] with any country--only beware--do not interfere with our sovereignty, our will, our decisions or domestic affairs. Apart from this, we are open to the whole world within the framework of compatible, balanced and joint interests.

But instead of heeding this and correcting its policies, the USSR adopted a hostile stand and waged war on us by means of what I previously mentioned--such as the blockade, inciting the rejectionist countries against us, placing obstacles in the path of the peace process--and finally the issue of internal sabotage with which we are dealing in this interview. This is an important subject.

Question: Your Excellency, I wish you would give us more details concerning the aspects of the hostile Soviet moves against our internal front.

Answer: Look, I will tell you that the USSR understands full well that it cannot make a direct move against us because it is aware of Egypt's unyielding stand. It tried an economic blockade against us but did not succeed. Even before the USSR tried, many countries had tried to impose an economic blockade on us in the past--in the '60s'. We might have some minor problems, but the Egyptian people have been great throughout history in any situation--particularly when this refers to economic blockades and the imposition of limitations upon us. In such cases, the Egyptian people become obstinate and make sacrifices. This is the real nature of the Egyptian people.

The president understands this because he is a faithful son of Egypt. He understands this fact and knows that the Egyptian people, when the situations requires, become giants and perform miracles. They have tried us in wars. We have been exposed to wars. You remember the tripartite aggression? It didn't break Egypt's will. They also tried an economic blockade against Egypt, but to no avail. The same thing happened when the Arab countries adopted a certain attitude after peace was reached. The Arab countries could not shoulder their responsibilities and rise to the level of peace, because this is a new method beyond many people's comprehension. They adopted a certain attitude toward us, but nothing happened. They said they would impose a blockade and Egypt would starve. Our present economic situation [is good], and it is getting better every day. We are making progress with our own resources and with the efforts of all the Egyptian people.

As I have said, they tried military action, but they failed. They then concentrated on the domestic front and tried to strike at it, shake the existing regime and strike at the people's interests, march, goals and the strong bridges of confidence linking the leader with his people. This was the aim of the Soviet Union and it indicates its impotency. This is nonsense and indicates that it does not understand Egypt, its leader, people or its long history and struggle. An evidence that it does not understand this is its miscalculations. It began its moves on the domestic front from several directions. It began a serious propaganda campaign using all information media, both in the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc controlled by the Soviet Union. There are countries in the Eastern bloc that adopt reasonable stands, but there are others in the Soviet orbit. All their radios and news agencies cast doubts, spread rumors and twisted facts and distorted all our policies, decisions and achievements. They spread many rumors to instigate our masses and cast doubts on the soundness of our march. This is only the propaganda part of their attack, in which they quoted from foreign news agencies.

Second, its intelligence organs in Egypt: A great number of its embassy employees pretended to be diplomats, but this was only a cover for its intelligence activities. The same applies to embassies in Egypt that are in the Soviet orbit. The Soviets used the employees of these embassies and their intelligence organs to serve their subversive goals. I will not specify these embassies, because they know themselves. I will not specify names, because they know what they are doing and we want to give them a chance. All they have been doing has been well known for a long time. We have our own will and make our own decisions at the proper time when things reach the point where we cannot remain silent.

They have been working for some time. Some of them have been deported and others have been warned and measures have been taken. But when things reached the point of playing with fire, fomenting sectarian sedition and striking at national unity, the situation did not permit us to remain silent or hesitate in taking the necessary decisive measures. Their intelligence established a base from which to carry out sabotage and recruit people. The few people they recruited are known. There are patriots who came to use when they tried to recruit them. This prompts us to be proud of the sons of Egypt. However, there are a few people who believe in the Marxist and communist creed and agents linked with them for their own interests. They gathered information about all aspects of our military, economic, religious and political life as well as about our institutions. They also used their agents to spread rumors harmful to our march and cast doubts in the leadership. They claimed that there were differences between the institutions and the higher leadership. Some of these were very cheap operations carried out by Soviet intelligence working from the embassy under the diplomatic cover and by certain TASS and magazine correspondents. Both their information media and journalists participated in their operations.

As I have said, other intelligence men from the embassies in the Soviet orbit participated in these operations, particularly the Bulgarian Embassy. This happened when we had diplomatic relations. Now there are no diplomatic relations following that incident. The Bulgarian Embassy was very active. The Soviet Union was directing the intelligence men of these embassies and giving them instructions and standing aside so that it would not be involved. They thought that when the circumstances became favorable. They would move-exactly as happened recently. For some time the Soviet Union was only directing the intelligence operations of the pro-Soviet embassies and watching so that it would not be directly involved or caught red-handed. We knew this and we knew that it summoned these intelligence men at certain places and times to receive reports and given instructions. All of this has been known for several years. The Soviets thought that when the circumstances became favorable for a large-scale subversive operation, they themselves would take part, as has happened recently.

We were aware of this and of whom they contacted and when. At times we recorded and took pictures of these meetings and at other times we postponed the recordings and photographs for a more opportune time so that we would not be discovered. We did this within the framework of the law and the operations were sound.

The Soviets met with members of the Grouping Party. We must consider this Grouping Party, because it is dominated by communists. It is using its status as a legal party, but its activities are very bad and are not consistent with party practices, democracy or the interests of Egypt and its people. But the regime is tolerant and his excellency the president said he will not dissolve it. This party exists and perhaps its members will try to use the present opportunity of the great democratic transformation so we can all join hands and reach the stage of maturity and democratic perfection that the president wants. However, they have refused. They are insisting on their personal interests, which have absolutely nothing to do with the interests of the people or the country. They are persisting in their subversion.

Question: In your opinion, why have the communists consistently adopted this hostile stand toward Egypt and the Egyptian Government?

Answer: I presume you mean the local communists. We have defined the stand of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Communist Party--they are the godfathers of all the communists in the area. The Communist Party in South Yemen is in charge of the communist parties in the Arab area.

Here in Egypt, in addition to the legal Grouping Party, we have a number of illegal secret communist organizations, such as the Egyptian Communist Party, the 8 January Communist Party, the Communist Party Congress and the Communist Workers Party. They tend to establish new parties under various names, work underground and receive subsidies from their godfather, the Soviet Communist Party. We seize them and their printing machines within the framework of the supremacy of the law. I have pictures of this. We watch their movements, seize their publications and leaflets and send them to court. Some of them are now in prison.

Great efforts are being made to follow this illegal and agent activity. Some of them are in prison. They say this is not a prison, court or prosecution, but this is detention. They resort to one-upmanship and to casting doubts on the measures we take.

As I said, in addition to the hostile campaign and activity, we have the activity of their intelligence services in Egypt, as well as the intelligence services of their satellite states. They instigate the parties and the secret organizations in Egypt. They also instigate the communist parties in the Arab countries. There are about 16 of these parties. Some of them operate secretly and some publicly. South Yemen is the leader of this operation. There is also the activity of Soviet-controlled international organizations, such as the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Union of Students. The Soviet-controlled International Union of Students has sent us a leaflet, which I will show you, claiming concern about events in Egypt.

These are the spheres in which the Soviet Union is working, be they public and propaganda activity or organization and secret activity through its intelligence organs, its recruitment of people, its fostering of rumors, its attempt to sabotage the domestic front and its distribution of leaflets.

The recent cases which were shown on television yesterday and which were published in the press have thrown light on this Soviet activity. These are not the first or the last such cases. They are an example of what is being uncovered and of the Soviet activities.

We have seen how some persons who claim to be nationalistic and are in the opposition and who claim to be concerned about Egypt's interest are involved up to their ears. They established a so-called national coalition and a national front, which also included haters and religious figures. I cannot imagine how all of them can sit at the same table. However, it is hatred and agency that have made all them conspire with each other to achieve one objective, which is to strike at the government in Egypt and to strike at the people's goals and march, thus severing their affiliation with Egypt and its people.

This is really dreadful and sad. There are great ideological differences among them; some are right extremist and some left extremist. They sit together to form fronts and alliances. What for? To strike at Nasserism? Well, why don't they present something, solutions and ideas. In relation to the Soviet Union, it is sponsoring the front abroad in which agent Ash-Shadhili is engaged, because he has with him communist elements representing the Soviet Union. He also has with him the communist grouping which is based in Paris. We have the communist grouping in both Libya and Iraq, and we have the Soviet Union itself sheltering some Egyptian communists who are happily residing there. It gives them money to travel and convey messages and to meet with those who leave Egypt. Here we have an open country and no one is prevented from leaving.

They go and come, and we are observing their movements. We know who is going to get paid, who is going to receive instructions to carry out sabotage and who is conveying distorted information. There is also a link between the underground communist organization here--there are five or six. I do not wish to reveal them--and abroad. This has been confirmed and established by evidence and there are cases under investigation by the prosecution.

Many of them are imprisoned. As I have told you, I have with me today their subversive instruments and equipment, leaflets and rumors and a record of their movements at home.

As I have also told you, they were under observation and there were cases. But when it reached the point where the Soviet Union and its agents at home and its intelligence service here started exploiting the sectarian sedition and striking at national unity, a stand had to be adopted because the nation could not tolerate this. We let them move about because the power and the stability of our system and the awareness, maturity and nobility of our people made us, by God, unconcerned. However, the question reached national unity and communal sedition and attempts to strike the solid rock upon which all colonialist plans and attempts were destroyed throughout the stages of our history and struggle. Our national unity has been the strong pillar and rock upon which all plots were destroyed. They failed to strike our march at the international level. Egypt is economically, politically and militarily sound. Every day there are great achievements. We can see how the world appreciates this and appreciates our leader. All of you travel abroad where you can see the respect and appreciation accorded to the Egyptian citizen. This did not come from a vacuum. They resorted to sabotage at home to harm national unity and stir up sectarian sedition. A firm and clear stand was necessary, as was adopted by the Cabinet today.

Question: What exactly was the Soviet Union's role in the sectarian strife in Egypt?

Answer: There were two persons engaged in intelligence under the guise of journalism. They published the magazine AL-'ASR AL-HADITH. They rented a luxurious villa near the pyramids in which they set up their center of activities. We started observing them. It was revealed that they were very active and were engaged in suspect contacts. It was established that they were engaged in intelligence. They recruited people to supply them with intelligence material about the domestic situation, concentrating on conditions around the end of 1980 and on the religious aspect, the Islamic groups, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Christians and the possibility of a clash between them. The operation was very clear. The matter was referred to the president. The landmarks and facts were very obvious. The aim was to promote and intensify this trend.

Certain things started and you may remember that last April the church, without any justification, refrained from performing a certain celebration while his excellency the president was on a visit to the United States. They thought they could play this game. This is how the situation was and this was absolutely confirmed. We briefed the president on the situation, and he said it was enough to deport them. It was possible to sieze them together with those working with them, but the presidnet said it was sufficient to deport them. He thought perhaps this would be a lesson for them and warn them to refrain from playing with fire. They were deported and we confiscated many documents in their dens. We have a statement from these documents that affirms that they sought to exploit the sectarian sedition. This was part of their activities, and the other part was their intelligence operations in the embassy and other embassies, which I do not want to talk about in detail.

These intelligence organs began to move in the same direction. This indicates they were implementing general instructions and were moving within a carefully planned framework. Moscow precisely defined for these elements the information required, the rumor that must be spread, the aim behind it and the target it was aimed at. Then we would find the rumor published in a leaflet of the Grouping Party and in leaflets of underground parties and organizations. TASS and other foreign radios would hasten to disseminate it. Leaflets would also be disseminated in Paris and London. All this evidence was known to us and available. The three intelligence organs in the Soviet Embassy and other pro-Soviet embassies were moving in the same direction.

Perhaps what was broadcast and published yesterday was very clear: The assignments required obtaining information on the Christians and their number, the possibilities of confrontation, the Muslims and the leaflets.

There were leaflets, and I have some of them. These leaflets were disseminated by underground parties and organizations. The leaflets claimed that the Muslims were the target of a Christian scheme aimed against Islam in Egypt. These same underground communist parties, which are financed and supported by and receive instructions from Moscow, also disseminated leaflets to the effect that the Christians in Egypt are victims of Islam and are persecuted. Thus, they played a double game to instigate both Christians and Muslims in order to create a confrontation.

The same thing happened when the Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra' incidents erupted. They tried to exploit and escalate the incidents. This was obvious in the urgent leaflets that were circulated by the underground communist parties and in the task Soviet intelligence assigned their agents in Egypt. What is important is that the Grouping Party's leaflets accused the government and the regime of being behind the incidents. They also began to claim that the incidents broke out because the economic system is not comprehensive and communist and thus it led to the sectarian sedition and to what the president briefly spoke about in his speech to the People's Assembly.

Regarding the issue of Shaykh al-Mahallawi, they should not have tried to raise it. This was one of the things that showed the dimensions of their thoughts and schemes. He was a man who broke the law and legal measures were taken. He was summoned by the investigation authorities and was released. This was not a crime. He violated the law and was called in for questioning. He would have been jailed or released, depending on the evidence. There was, however, sufficient evidence and recordings that he admitted to. We did not record his sermons, but his followers recorded them publicly. The recordings were sent to the rejectionist countries and the abuse against Egypt, the Egyptian regime and the Egyptian president and people was broadcast publicly. The process was public and not secret. The regime, being tolerant and strong, viewed this as nonsense and hoped that one day these people would come to their senses and refrain from such actions. We were also confident in the people, their awareness and maturity. Evidence of this is that they have been persisting in these actions for a long time but have failed to achieve anything. They have failed to instigate the people or cause troubles for the regime. All the people are standing behind the leader for further achievements and victories. All the people have confidence in the leader. They support him and are proud of him and his efforts on an objective and not an emotional basis.

There have been achievements, victories and successes at home and abroad in the military, political, economic and diplomatic fields. In my capacity as minister of the interior I follow all developments. Every week I receive reports on what takes place in the mosques and in other places, on the extensive Muslim Brotherhood activity, on the opposition campaigns and leaflets and on foreign news agencies allegations and press conferences. We let all this go, although it was possible to take action under the law. However, no actions were taken because of our confidence in ourselves, in the strength of the regime and its confidence in its people and maybe out of my concern for the democratic march. We view these people like a caged bird lacking democracy and lacking freedom before the May Revolution. Before the president assumed his responsibilities, these people were captives in a cage. When they leave the cage, like the bird, they keep on flying and committing excesses until they rest and get used to freedom. This was our explanation for this phenomenon. The atmosphere of freedom and democracy was a new thing to these people. They may take their time. We and the leader cared for them based on his belief that the democratic climate was sound and that the sound party activity was based on constructive and objective criticism and on sound opposition aimed at building, not destroying, and at presenting solutions to problems of the regime, not outside or hostile to the regime, which cannot be called opposition.

Our interest in all this made us view things from above and from the position of strength of the regime and its leadership and from the people's confidence in it and their maturity and awareness. However, the matter reached the point of destroying the country and its successes and of striking at national unity. We saw that the sectarian sedition was not confined to Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra' but that they wanted it to extend to the whole governorate. We have seen how the sons of Egypt have lived together with forbearance, affection and cooperation in time of war, their blood mingled together because the enemy's fire did not differentiate between Muslim and Christian. We have seen them side by side in all public sectors and factories and in all other places as one people. Today, when we see attempts to kill the sons of this people and turn our country into a second Lebanon--where we can see much destruction--a stand had to be adopted. Some of those working abroad who think that the forbearance and explanations I am giving out of belief and conviction are a sign of weakness or show the inability of the regime to confront them have made the wrong calculations. The existing laws do not need to be strengthened by other laws. Our objective is that the people are the masters of the decision and the sovereignty, as we have seen in the referendum. The existing laws were drawn up by society, which is the first to benefit from them. If these people abided by and followed the sound course which serves Egypt and makes them good citizens shouldering their responsibilities toward their country, this law will be the first protection for them among the existing laws. However, they may think this forbearance and this situation will promote sectarian sedition.

Although it was quickly brought under control, the Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra' incident caused many casualties and much destruction in a small place in a matter of few hours. What would happen if similar incidents proliferated in other places? Their plan was to exacerbate every small incident. If no incident happened, they would fabricate one. The inevitable result would be that incidents would break out in all the governorates because of the leaflets, activities and attacks of a fanatic Christian minority and a fanatic Muslim minority. Under the guise of religion and by exacerbating the situation, these two fanatic minorities were doing a service to the Soviet Union, to the enemies of Egypt and to the rejectionist front.

It is no secret if I tell you that leaflets that can topple states arrive in diplomatic pouches. We know this and are watching it.

So what will be the result if we have three or four incidents every day like the Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra' incident? The result will be that all the people's achievements will be destroyed.

Therefore, it was necessary to take measures against the fanatic elements who masquerade behind religion but do not understand the true meaning of religion. The spiritual principles are the principles of love, tolerance, brotherhood, cooperation, peace, work and production. These are the principles of religion as we know them.

I always used to summon them and tell them: Men, what you are doing is wrong. We have more faith than you. We are more concerned about the religious call and its ideals.

Their shaykhs and youths used to listen and knew that what I was saying was true. I used to look on them as my sons who one day could return to the right course.

I wasted so many hours and long nights with them. I stood on their side in certain reasonable things. This was because they used to do things punishable by law. I used to help them in hopes they would learn and repent.

However, they mistakenly thought the regime was retreating or was weak. The regime has never been weak before the biggest challenges. [It eliminated] the centers of power. We saw how the president expelled 18,000 Soviet experts in a matter of hours. The October war, the Bar-Lev line, this and this and this, the peace initiative and its serious implications. [sentence as received] These [Muslim fundamentalists] pose no real challenge.

The president views them as being his sons. There are good sons and bad sons. Moreover, when one of my sons or one of your sons makes a mistake and deviates and we take measures against him, this does not mean we have a grudge against him or we hate him. We mean to reform him so his other brothers will not emulate him. [passage indistinct]

When I used to submit these matters and the dangers inherent in them to the president, he used to say: These are our sons; advise them, make them understand, send someone to them to make them understand. But they did not listen to us.

During the sectarian sedition in Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra', I sat with them many nights to try and make them understand. However, leaflets continued to be distributed in the governorates so that the issue would become bigger.

Who will benefit if Egypt is destroyed and all its achievements are ruined? Is he a patriot, a believer, a Muslim or religious person who says this will happen, blood will flow and there will be killing, destruction and fires? He who says this is neither patriotic nor religious.

Here, I want to go back to my subject. When the Soviet Union sought to play with fire and sectarian sedition--and this was clear from its underground men whom it supports--these elements and Soviet intelligence began to move in the same direction. The Labor Party, which worked within the same framework, made an issue of Shyakh al-Mahallawi. This was not the Labor Party, I meant to say the Grouping Party. The Labor Party also made an issue of the Al-Mahallawi affair. The Grouping Party wanted to show that it was concerned about shaykhs and Al-Mahallawi. When he broke the law we should have jailed him. However, leaflets were distributed casting doubts and saying that Muslims and ulemas were persecuted. Who would say this? Our Islamic call and ulemas are all well throughout Egypt. As his excellency the president said after reading a verse from the Koran, if any of the countries that criticized our actions had this danger threaten its future and generations. [incomplete sentence as received]

The Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra' incidents could have been settled in half an hour if the police had intervened with full force. But we did not want to cause more victims. I imagined that they were brothers fighting each other and I tried to separate them. I meant to strike at anyone who made mistakes and stop his excesses. I could have dealt with this incident in exactly half an hour as in other places where they made other attempts. The danger arises from future developments and excesses, particularly when other foreign elements like Egypt's members [a'da' Mîsr], the rejectionist front, the communists inside and outside the country and Soviet intelligence are involved. If we were to ignore things like that, it would mean the situation is not under control and the question would remain unresolved.

We are watched by history. [If we left this unresolved] we would relinquish our responsibility and the right of the Egyptian people above all else. The president would never remain silent about this. His stand is clear and frank as president, leader and father of the Egyptian family. If this danger to the future existed in any other country, not less than 15,000 or 20,000 would have been placed in custody.

As his excellency the president said: You are 7,000 or 8,000 people. You are within this number. If this occurred in any other country, this number of people would be held in custody.

The evidence is available. They were running an illegal organization, and a sanction exists against this as well as the components of the organization. There is a law that applies to striking at, offending and endangering national unity. This was what the situation was like. We have here all the leaflets issued by the underground parties on the instructions of Moscow as well as the Soviet moves. Parts of these were published yesterday and all focused on exploiting the sectarian sedition.

Moreover, they say there are relations between the Islamic groups and their representatives in Iran. What are these relations? Which personalities in Egypt would play the first role so that we can later deal with them? The progressive forces--they call themselves progressive forces--the communists and agents were asked to embrace and support the religious trend. After that they would act against them as we have seen in Iran. They are acting against the religious trend. The communists have emerged in Iran and want to take power.

Question: On the basis of the reports you possess, is it possible--without affecting the process of the ongoing investigations--to learn about some of the cases that have been uncovered?

Answer: Some of these were revealed yesterday. Some are being investigated by the state security prosecution. There are cases we have investigated, but the time has not come to disclose them because they are still being pursued and watched, although the decision and will is in our hands. Some of them may repent, but there is incriminating evidence. Some of the evidence was seized some time ago, and it was a sufficient basis for deportation. The embassy was warned to change its behavior before we took the measures that we took today. Nothing happened. On the contrary, there was more activity. Some of it was disclosed over the past few days, and there is some that is still under surveillance, being photographed and recorded. The time has not come to disclose this.

Question: What are the dimensions and aims of the decisions that the Cabinet took today regarding the Soviet ambassador and some of the diplomats and journalists?

Answer: When the details which I just put before you were submitted to the Cabinet today with documents and evidence, there was a wave of extreme displeasure in the Cabinet over what the Soviet Union has done in violating international traditions and agreements and in violating the norms for dealings between states. There was also extreme displeasure in the Cabinet as a result of its attitude. The Cabinet made the decisions that were announced today. They, of course, call for the removal and declaration of the Soviet ambassador and a number of Soviet employees as persona non grata, and they must leave the country within 48 hours. In addition, there are two Soviets, one working for TASS and the other, I think, for TRUD. They were here under the cover of the press, but they were engaged in intelligence and sabotage. It has been decided to expel them, too. Also the first secretary in the Hungarian Embassy was engaged in the same activity and was also used by Soviet intelligence in Egypt, just like what happened at the Bulgarian Embassy before relations with Bulgaria were broken off. We found a lot at the Bulgarian Embassy. I have the facts and photographs about the movements of the ambassador and the six others, as well as the other two.

Question: Would Your Excellency like to show some of the documents?

Answer: Yes, very much. Regrettably, there was an Egyptian citizen who one day had the confidence of the people and was elected as a member of the People's Assembly from the Qasr an-Nil constituency. The people rejected him in the last elections. Here are photographs of him with Soviet intelligence men at the Nile Garden casino in more than one meeting over a long period receiving instructions and carrying instructions. Here is Qabari 'Abdallah and this is the Soviet, whose name I have here--the first secretary of the embassy and member of the Soviet intelligence system. This meeting was on 3 August 1980 at the Nile Garden casino, and another meeting was held on 10 August. Their meetings were held weekly on different dates.

Here are two meetings with the same person. This document lists five communist underground organizations. The state security investigation service dealt blows to these organizations and their tools and equipment were seized with them.

This shows modern printing machines. Big operations like these were made possible by financial backing from outside--from the mother communist party, which is the Soviet Communist Party. In this context we also discovered financial support from South Yemen. This financing was also uncovered in the 18 and 19 January 1977 incidents--the uprising of the thieves which is still described as a popular uprising or a national uprising and such nonsense. Financial support coming from there was also uncovered.

This gives you an idea about their equipment and leaflets. All this about the communist organizations was uncovered during the recent period. In their secret meetings and reports they try to exploit the religious sedition between the Muslims and Christians. This caused problems for the government. They used the sectarian sedition to serve their own purposes and to serve Soviet designs. They thought the crackdown on sectarian sedition would leave the field free for them. They thought they would be free to operate as they like. They will be dealt with according to the law. Everything will be done according to the law. The law exists, and as his excellency the president said, democracy has fangs. They think they can carry out sabotage and stir up the Muslims and Christians against each other to undermine the regime and serve Soviet designs throughout the Arab areas, because unrest in Egypt will reflect on the whole area, the rejectionist front and so forth. On the other hand, there is another goal--that we leave the field open, and I don't know that other expression. All this is about these things.

Here you see a newspaper for each of these groups. This ambassador was leading the operation, and he has a history here in Egypt and before he became an ambassador. He was here before and he left and came back. This shows the first secretary and his contacts and the people he met with and the dates.

He met with Hilmi Murad and people from the Labor Party whose names are known, and with Husayn Fahmi of the Secretariat General of the Grouping Party. Incredible operations. They spent hours receiving and conveying instructions. This is his photograph, from the front and side.

This is a photograph of the second secretary. He is also here and is married to an administrative secretary in the embassy. And here are all the details of his movements, meetings and the information he (?transmitted). Here is a photograph of a second secretary who used to work in South Yemen as an instructor and here are details of all his movements. The information on all this is available.

Here is (Shinanov), also a second secretary at the embassy. He has a villa here in Egypt and a villa in Aden on the Al-Firdaws coast. He tends to copy the American way of dressing and living.

He frequently goes to the Al-Jazirah sports club to play tennis. He spent some time working in northwestern Europe and was expelled from Sweden in 1971 before coming here to carry out espionage activity.

This is a third secretary. He has been here since 3 October 1978. He lives in Ad-Duqqi. His activity is also recorded. The rumors that have been heard in the country originate from Moscow's network here. Leaflets were issued by the Labor Party, by the Grouping Party and by many other people, who I cannot say are agents like the others but are sympathizers, regrettably unconsciously serving Soviet designs and following the same line and putting themselves in the same boat.

This is the first secretary at the Hungarian Embassy and here is all the information he collected on the status of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt about the government and the Christians.

This is the TRUD correspondent. He also works for Soviet intelligence. He was here and left in 1976, and they sent him back again. We also have details of all his previous activities. Hostile leaflets and a book called "The Black Days in Egypt," which was (?published) by Modern Times, were found in his possession.

This is the TASS correspondent. There is also a first secretary who was expelled. He is [Aleksandr Vasilitov]. He was very dangerous. He was the head of an espionage group. His dangerous activity involved spreading rumors, collecting information and condemning Egypt. He used to hold secret meetings at late hours.

When his activity increased and became clear, I raised his case with the president. He ordered his expulsion in the hope they would come to their senses. He was very dangerous. He was expelled before along with those of the Modern Times. The ones who are here are six, plus the two journalists which makes eight, plus the ambassador and the one from the Hungarian Embassy.

Question: Are there other documents Your Excellency wants to show?

Answer: As I said before, there are the leaflets of the Soviet-controlled International Union of Students which say: Show solidarity with the Egyptian people and students.

Question: To whom did they send these leaflets?

Answer: They sent them to be distributed in Egypt. The leaflets were the subject of the film on 'Abd as-Salam Az-Zayyat which was shown yesterday. (Yuyun Yarcut) [presumably a Soviet official] is also involved, but he has left the country and is not here. It was a horrible operation.

Question: Would you like to add anything else?

Answer: You were asking about the decisions. These have been announced and I don't want to repeat them. We decided to expel the Soviet experts. There is also a military office we decided to close. There was another important decision. The number of administrative diplomats at the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow is very small. Here there are hundreds of them. Because our regime is tolerant, we did not object to this in the past. Now, we have decided that the number of Soviet diplomats in Cairo should be the same as the number of Egyptian diplomats in Moscow.

Finally, I want to say that our country, our regime and our march are in good shape. The whole world knows this. As his excellency the president said, all these things could have caused horrible dangers for our future. Our main aim is our concern for the coming generations. These vents do not pose a problem for the regime or for Egypt. It is true that bloody incidents may occur, like the sectarian sedition in Az-Zawiyah al-Hamra'. This small incident caused so many casualties.

Foreign propaganda tries to depict these events as dangerous to the regime. No, they are dangerous for the future. The big danger lies in the proliferation of this danger, in not putting it in its proper perspective and in not putting everyone in his place.

I would like to express appreciation and gratitude to the Interior Ministry's organs, especially the state security investigation department, which is behind this great effort, as well as to the intelligence service, the national security service, the military intelligence service and the Foreign Ministry's organs. They are all working together in a spirit of cooperation and brotherhood. They all have one aim, which is to safeguard Egypt's interest and the Egyptian people's security and safety and to preserve Egypt's great and honorable image as an oasis of peace and security, which is causing all the Arabs to be jealous of us.

I would also like to thank the information media services--the television, radio and press--which rose to the level of the events and were able to convey the truth to the people.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR POLYAKOV LEAVES CAIRO 17 SEP

NC171026 Cairo MENA in English 1015 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)--Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov left this morning for home aboard a special plane with the six Soviet diplomats who had been considered as persona non grata.

Two Soviet journalists also left aboard the same plane, namely the correspondent of TASS and the correspondent of TRUD newspaper, who had been deported due to their involvement in a Soviet plot against Egypt. Some one hundred Soviet experts and their wives also boarded the ambassador's plane. Polyakov was seen off at the airport by Foreign Undersecretary 'Umran ash-Shafi'i and Director of Protocol Yahia Rif'at.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS DEPORTATION OF SOVIET EXPERTS

NC170827 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)--AL-AHRAM today reports that it has been decided to deport all 173 Soviet experts in the iron and steel plant and their families in groups within 1 week from yesterday. They have all been informed to be ready to leave the country.

It has also been decided to deport the 70 Soviet experts in the aluminum plant in Naja' Hammadi in two groups, with the first group of 25 experts and their families leaving today and the second group of 45 experts and their families leaving tomorrow, Friday.

The appropriate authorities have made the necessary travel arrangements by plane or ship for the experts and their families. They have all been notified to be ready to leave. A total of 216 experts working in various ministries and Egyptian industrial plants have been granted 1 week to leave the country.

FRENCH TV INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTRY'S GHALI

NC162158 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Paris, 16 Sep (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that Egypt is committed to maintaining some sort of a balance between the Eastern and Western blocs. He has also said that Egypt is a nonaligned state and a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement, as well as an African state that abides by the OAU Charter, which defends the policy of nonalignment.

This was contained in an interview Dr Ghali granted to French television that was shown this evening. The interview dealt with the recent developments in Egypt and the measures that were taken yesterday against the Soviet ambassador in Cairo and a number of Soviet Embassy employees and if this would mean a greater rapprochement with the United States.

Asked if these measures would lead to a possible severance of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, Dr Ghali said that the Foreign Ministry first under secretary had specifically pointed out to the Soviet ambassador that Egypt has no intention of breaking off its diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Dr Ghali added: We have an embassy in Moscow and the Soviet Union has an embassy in Cairo.

Asked about the charges levelled against the expelled Soviet diplomats, Dr Ghali said: There is going to be an investigation. What is certain is that they have violated the principles of international law, especially the law against noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries.

Asked whether there is a relationship between the recent measures designed to end sectarian sedition and the expulsion of the Soviet ambassador from Egypt, Dr Ghali said: There were indeed disturbances by radical religious groups, but also there were subversive activities by the communist groups in Egypt, although the Communist Party is legally banned in Egypt. He said that authentic reports at the disposal of Egyptian security affirm that there were suspicious contacts between Soviet agents and some religious groups aimed at causing instability in Egypt. For this reason, the government was compelled to make the decision to arrest some Soviet and communist agents.

Asked whether the current policy of rapprochement between Egypt and Israel has led to the intensification of the opposition in Egypt, Dr Ghali said: I do not think that the normalization of relations with Israel has increased the radicalism of some elements. The goal of the opponents is to seize power. They all met around this goal, which contradicts the wish of the Egyptian people.

Dr Ghali added: The normalization of relations with Israel is proceeding satisfactorily. I am optimistic regarding the future of bilateral relations between Egypt and Israel.

Referring to the possible existence of contacts between Al-Qadhdhafi and Khomeyni, on the one hand, and the Muslim radicals in Egypt on the other, Dr Ghali said: We are concerned about the subversive policy of Al-Qadhdhafi in Africa and the world. Asked whether Al-Qadhdhafi or Khomeyni constituted a threat to Egypt, Dr Ghali said: In principle, neither poses a threat to Egypt, but both of them constitute a threat to peace and stability in the world.

CAIRO PAPERS COMMENT ON SOVIET PLOTS 17 SEP

NC162355 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)--In its Thursday edition AL-AHRAM says that in its short and long-range plans aimed at dominating the states of the world and directing their policies to serve its interests, the Soviet Union has not overlooked Egypt in the years since it suffered the blow of the expulsion of the 17,000 Soviet experts.

The paper says that the Soviet attempts since that great event--which enhanced the importance of the Great October victory--have been designed to surround Egypt through infiltration of the neighboring states and to try to create bases and springboards to jump on it or to strike at it in its strategic Sudanese front.

The paper adds that the second part of the plan was to stir up events inside Egypt and to create sedition and exploit positions in order to spread confusion and chaos to improve its chances of changing the national regime or overthrowing it.

The paper adds that this plan called for several things, including the intensification of the information campaigns against Egypt, spreading false rumors, attempting to mobilize the largest possible number of agents, particularly those who had sold their religion for the atheist Marxist ideology, fanning any inflammable incident, inflating disputes and intensifying contacts with all the agents and hostile groups.

The paper affirms that Egypt has not been unfriendly toward the Soviet Union by making the expulsion decisions, closing the military office, cancelling the contracts of the civilian experts and reducing the number of embassy personnel. The paper says that it was Moscow that acted in an unfriendly way toward Egypt. Instead of trying to improve the relations with it, Moscow sought sedition and destruction.

In its commentary AL-AKHEAR says that it was impossible for the Soviets to keep quiet after the expulsion of its experts, who numbered about 20,000. The blow hurt them deeply, not only as far as Egypt is concerned, but also as far as the whole Middle East is concerned.

The paper adds: For this reason, the Soviets mobilized all their efforts to work against Egypt. They mobilized all their services and agents to plot against Egypt and its government. The Soviet Embassy in Cairo and all the agencies attached to it were feverishly working against Egypt or against the government.

The paper adds: One of their methods was to remove the Soviet Communist banner and raise other banners behind which they thought they could hide their designs. One of their methods of camouflage and distortion was to wear the turban of Khomeyni and raise the banner of Islam. They received help from their agents outside Egypt, particularly Al-Qadhdhafi, in paying millions to the Kuwaiti papers and the agent writers who have lost their conscience.

The paper affirms that Egypt is strong and able and that the regime is completely stable. The clearest proof of this is the uncovering of these plots with all their aspects and elements and dealing with them firmly.

PAPER VIEWS U.S.-ISRAELI STRATEGIC COOPERATION

JN170800 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Sep 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The First Fruit of Sin," AD-DUSTUR says: No sooner had Begin returned from Washington than Israel started implementing the strategic cooperation program by massing its troops to launch a new all-out aggression against Southern Lebanon to liquidate the Palestinian resistance, which, according to Israel, is a terrorist organization and a friend to the USSR.

Information available to the Lebanese Government and Palestinian leaders confirms that Israel will carry out a wide-scale military operation within 1 month. It is perhaps out of fear of this aggression that the Lebanese Government has held a special meeting to discuss the grave situation in southern Lebanon following reports on the Israeli military build-up to implement the aggression.

If we examine the results of the recent Reagan-Begin meeting in Washington, we can say that Begin certainly obtained Washington's prior approval for Israeli future actions in the area under the canopy of strategic cooperation, which, according to Israel, covers the military, economic and political fields.

To justify its premeditated aggression against Lebanon, Israel has launched an intensive propaganda campaign claiming that the resistance obtained large quantities of sophisticated weapons from the Soviet Union. Israel's objective is to ally the resistance to what it describes as a Soviet threat to the Middle East, thus justifying this expected attack on southern Lebanon as resistance to this threat.

Of course, the initial result of the Israeli plan will be the collapse of the cease-fire in southern Lebanon between Israel and the PLO, which has been expected since it was reached, because the Zionist entity is determined to implement its expansionist policy in Lebanon and, to wipe out the Palestinian resistance.

The United States, more than ever before, shoulders the responsibility for the grave consequences that would result from the expected Israeli aggression, because under the terms of the new strategic cooperation agreement, the United States is a partner in every military adventure Israel carries out in the area.

As for those Arab countries that neglected the Lebanese issue and remained silent on the deteriorating situation in Lebanon for many years, they too would be responsible for the grave consequences that would result from another eruption in southern Lebanon, a matter that could cause the outbreak of war in the Middle East and place the entire area on the brink of an abyss.

BOMBINGS REPORTED IN SIDON, SHIKKA 17 SEP

Command Center in Sidon Hit

NC170922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] There was a big blast at about 0915 [0715 GMT] today in Sidon which devastated the joint headquarters of some organizations in the city. There were many casualties, including killed and wounded. REUTER quotes eyewitnesses as saying that a blast devastated a command center and that it was apparently caused by a bomb in a car parked outside the center in the heart of Sidon. It was reported a short time ago that the blast was caused by a bomb weighing 120 kgs of TNT planted in a car near the center.

Eyewitnesses said that dozens of persons were killed or wounded by the blast which destroyed several stories in neighboring buildings. Fires broke out and black smoke was seen over the city. REUTER's correspondent says that he counted at least 10 bodies moved by rescue teams from the scene of the blast. Dozens of cars were destroyed and glass and twisted steel rods were scattered in the street.

PLO Leader Killed

LD170930 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0856 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Excerpts] Beirut, 17 Sep (KUNA)--A huge explosion took place at the regional headquarters of the PLO in southern Lebanon and resulted in injuring an unknown number of people including a senior military official.

A KUNA correspondent in Sidon, where the explosion took place, said that the explosion led to the destruction of 10 adjoining buildings. Initial information said that the explosion was the result of blowing up a mined vehicle in which there was about 200 kg of TNT.

The correspondent said that it was difficult to determine the number of dead and injured, as many of the casualties are still buried under the debris. The correspondent said that a senior Palestinian military person was among the dead but so far has not been named.

Reports from Lebanon said a large number of Palestinian forces surrounded the area which is covered with dense smoke. The Palestinian relief teams so far managed to pull out 10 bodies while an unknown number is still under the debris.

Bomb Misses Meeting

NC171048 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Concerning the blast in Sidon, a preliminary estimate made available to the Voice of Lebanon indicates that 15 persons were killed and 80 others wounded, including 35 seriously. Reports indicate that the blast was caused by two large charges planted in a civilian car parked near Fatah's joint operations office, where a regular meeting of the Southern Area Command of the Palestinian resistance and the leftist movement was due to be held. The meeting was scheduled at 1000 but the bomb exploded about 50 minutes earlier.

Shikka Explosion

NC170829 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] There was a big explosion this morning in At-Turabah Company in Shikka which caused several casualties, both dead and wounded, who were moved to Al-Batrun hospital. It is unknown yet whether the explosion was caused by a bomb or from power short circuit.

Casualties Cited

NC170903 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0856 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Concerning the explosion in Shikka, preliminary reports indicate that 10 persons were killed and over 10 persons wounded, some seriously. The explosion took place in a ticket office box.

Group Claims Responsibility

NC171011 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Sidon, South Lebanon, 17 Sep (AFP)--A booby-trapped car exploded outside the headquarters of combined Palestinian and Lebanese leftist forces in south Lebanon this morning, killing 12 and wounding 20, according to initial reports.

Several storeys of the headquarters building, overlooking the vegetable market here, collapsed in the explosion believed to have been caused by an estimated 120 kilos (265 pounds) of dynamite packed into a car.

Another explosion was reported at about the same time at Shikka, 60 kms (36 miles) north of Beirut, causing 10 dead and 10 wounded, according to the Phalangist radio "Voice of Lebanon".

An organisation calling itself "the Lebanese Foreigners Liberation Front" claimed to have carried out both attacks in a telephone call to AFP.

An anonymous caller said that: "Lebanon will never be a seat, nor a corridor, for foreigners and plotters."

SYRIAN FORCES MAY WITHDRAW FROM ZAHLAH HILLTOPS

NC161235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] A Lebanese-Syrian security meeting was held at the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] headquarters in Shtawrah at noon today to discuss completing the implementation of the security measures in Zahlah and its environs and restoring life to normal in the town.

The Lebanese side was attended by Governor of Al-Biqa' Henry Lahud, Commander of the Zahlah Gendarmerie Brig Gen Salim Darwish and Commander of the Zahlah Gendarmerie Company Lt Col Rafio Faghali. The ADF side was represented by Commander of the Syrian Forces in Lebanon Maj Gen Sa'id Bayraqdar and the head of the ADF Military Intelligence Service, Col Muhammad Ghanim.

The meeting discussed the question of withdrawal of some Syrian units from the hilltops and areas surrounding Zahlah, following the success of the first step yesterday when Syrian military convoys crossed the Zahlah international highway between Riyaq and Shtawrah.

HAIG ASKS BEGIN TO MODERATE AWAC COMMENTS

TA161957 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Excerpts] The U.S. Secretary of State asked the Prime Minister to moderate his statements against the AWACS deal. This was confirmed to our correspondent Yisra'el Segal by a senior source in the Prime Minister's party. Secretary of State Alexander Haig arrived unexpectedly in New York last night in order to talk with the Prime Minister a short while before he took off for Israel.

This morning, the Prime Minister returned to Ben Gurion Airport, where he was ceremonially received. Our correspondent, Yisra'el Segal, reports on the prime minister's homecoming:

Last night, before the prime minister's departure from the United States, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig met unexpectedly with the prime minister at the New York airport. The two talked in private for about 1 hour in the El Al building. The U.S. networks hastened to report about a protest. President Reagan is dismayed with the prime minister's statements against the AWACS aircraft deal; and indeed, this morning sources in the Israeli party confirmed this information, but they added that the talk itself was conducted in a good atmosphere and that it included other subjects.

As far as we know at this hour, Haig briefed Begin about a policy subject of the first order, a subject that is about to be clarified in the next few days. It will be recalled that Alexander Haig met with Saudi Prince Fahd before he returned to the United States.

BEGIN NEWS CONFERENCE UPON RETURN FROM U.S.

TA161035 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0939 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin's news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport on 16 September upon his return from the United States--live]

[Excerpts] Good morning and a very good year to all of you. The Israeli delegation composed of the foreign, defense and interior ministers and myself as well as our good friends, advisers, and aides was welcomed in Washington by the President, his advisers and aides. When we left U.S. airspace I sent a message of gratitude to U.S. President Reagan and his wife, for their warm hospitality during our stay in the United States, and especially in Washington. We held a significant number of meetings. The most important ones were with the President and his aides; with the vice president; two lengthy and special discussions with the secretary of state; a talk with the secretary of the treasury. The defense minister held a lengthy private meeting with the secretary of defense.

We met with the foreign relations committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives; with the representatives of two Christian organizations which are friends of Israel; with a delegation of Blacks who are Israel's friends; with a group of senators who are friends of Israel; with the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Mrs Kirkpatrick, and our representative at the United Nations, Mr Yehuda Blum; with the representatives of the Black community; with Mr Kirkland, the head of the ALF-CIO; with former Secretary of State Mr Vance and his wife; with former Secretary of State Dr Kissinger; with Mrs Emma Marcus, the widow of the illustrious Commander Colonel Marcus who

volunteered to help our people and died in our country; and with a delegation of IDF war invalids. We had two meetings with the leadership of the Conference of Presidents of Jewish Organizations and with the plenum of this organization and attended a bond rally. A rally for the United Jewish Appeal, a rally for Jewish organizations and a conference of the Herut movement. We visited former President Carter and his wife in Plains and had a private talk with the secretary of state at Kennedy Airport before our departure for Israel. In addition, we held a general news conference and a special news conference with representatives of the Israeli press and appeared on the television program "Meet The Press" and on the "Today" show and so on.

On all these occasions, both private and public, we announced that we regard the arms deal with Saudi Arabia as a threat to Israel's security. We added that, being Israeli citizens, we could not interfere in the in-depth argument now waging between the two branches of the U.S. Administration, the executive and legislative. As people responsible for Israel's security, it is not only our prerogative but it is also our duty to reiterate this position; this arms deal constitutes a danger to Israel's security.

I understand that there will be a Knesset session on 21 September. At that time I will divulge more details about the 10-day visit in the United States.

After I make a brief announcement in English, I will ask you to pose your questions in either of the two languages. I will reply to each person in his own language.
[passage indistinct]

[Question] Mr Prime Minister: Included in the long list of meetings you had in the United States, you also mentioned the last meeting, the one with Secretary of State Haig whom you met prior to your departure. I would like to ask you about that meeting; could you confirm or deny reports that say the U.S. secretary of state criticized statements made by Israeli personalities on the AWACS deal after having held meetings with the top U.S. Administration officials? Also, in what he told you about his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd, was there anything encouraging as far as Israel is concerned?

[Answer] The secretary of state and myself agreed not to publicize the content of our conversation for the moment. This, for the time being, still applies.

[Question] If so, with your permission, could I ask you whether regarding the Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation both countries share the same evaluation of the nature of that cooperation? We have heard Israeli elements say it constitutes a historic turning point, whereas U.S. elements have described it as something more gradual and less of a historic milestone, if one could call it that.

[Answer] I do not know what you heard. I never uttered the word historic, nor did my colleagues. However, if someone is enamored by history there is no objection to his using this term, but the fact remains that we discussed this important issue. As I already said, a lengthy and detailed conversation was held between our defense minister and the U.S. secretary of defense. They decided to continue these talks which will probably be held in November. Similarly, an official statement was issued, which you most probably read, after the meeting referring distinctly to the strategic partnership [shutafut] between the two countries. The two defense ministers also agreed that the possibility exists, if they reach an agreement of course, for the partnership. In November they will sign the memorandum of understanding. If it is written and signed then you will all read it and decide for yourselves whether it is a historic change, a turning point. In any event, you will all be aware of the content because the memorandum will not be confidential. It will be published.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister: If we do not deal with history and rather deal with actuality, might there be a danger to Israel in the strategic cooperation with respect to its future operations on security matters.

[Answer] No, there is no such danger.

[Question] Sir: When you emerged from the White House following your last meeting there, you drew a clear distinction between the activity regarding the strategic cooperation and the activity for defending Israel.

[Answer] No. Not when I emerged from the White House, but during the first meeting and in my first discussion with the President of the United States and his advisers, I raised this topic and drew a distinction between two aspects: the defense of Israel, saying that this is our affair and our responsibility. We have never asked another nation to send its troops to defend us and endanger their lives for us. We know how to defend ourselves and we want peace rather than war. However, if we are attacked in the future, we will know how to defend our people and our country. We clearly share interests regarding the entire region for the simple reason that there has been constant Soviet expansionism, more than at any time since the beginning of World War II, which is dangerous to all free nations. Therefore, we should all stand together and act in coordination. Thus, the idea came about for security-strategic cooperation.

[Question] During your stay in the United States, the Alignment attacked the visit in Washington saying the security interests of the State of Israel had been forsaken. What is your reaction?

[Answer] Maybe you should read the press today and you will see what the real situation is. However, the Alignment is always attacking. What is so surprising about it? I think it also attacked during the election campaign. Everything will become clearer during the Knesset session. If one attacks, one must get an answer, and they will receive one.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister: In your talks with the heads of the U.S. Administration did you also conduct a practical discussion on the current question on the agenda, namely, the autonomy talks and the peace process?

[Answer] We held an in-depth discussion about this issue with the secretary of state. However, there is a lady here who has three times tried to ask me a question. I am asking all journalists not to prevent her from exercising her right to pose a question.

[Question] Did you discuss with the U.S. President the problems which arose in the wake of the inclusion of both Israel and Saudi Arabia in the same strategic deployment which is designed to curb Soviet expansionism in the region?

[Answer] We discussed security-strategic cooperation between both our countries, the United States and the State of Israel.

[Question] Another question, if you will be so kind: Is it true that a tripartite summit meeting will be held in Washington to overcome the difficulties in the autonomy talks?

[Answer] I read about it; I did not hear anything about it.

[Begin question and answer portion in English with superimposed Hebrew translation; transcribed from English]

[Question] The question is this: Mr Prime Minister, would you be able to interpret for us the fact that a major conference is underway in Libya, I understand, in Benghazi, among states that seem to be sympathetic with the Soviet Union, including Syria, a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and even of Iran. Could it be that the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel may be polarizing the Middle East?

[Answer] I haven't read the press today. I didn't read that (?item) in the United States. I can only say: Any conference that takes place in Libya is (?known) and I will read about the conference, who is participating and what is the declared aim. I have yet to read that item.

[Question] I understand that the last-minute meeting with Secretary of State Haig was a private one. But can you give us an indication if in fact it involved the sale of the AWACS to Saudi Arabia [words indistinct]?

[Answer] [words indistinct] For an answer I don't intend to give. I stand by what I said. I have nothing to add to the statement already made.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister: On Israel television a few days ago it was reported, quoting an American official, that while there may not be any linkage between the Saudi Arabian arms deal and the strategic cooperation there was, however, some connection. Would you comment on this?

[Answer] No, I can't because I don't know who the spokesman was and I do not intend to go into any discussion with an anonymous spokesman.

[Question] [words indistinct] A senior American official and perhaps one of the officials with whom you spoke as saying that if the AWACS deal, which you called a double deal in Washington, does not go through the United States may have to revise its policy towards Israel? [words indistinct]

[Answer] First of all, I would like to say that we used the words double deal in the Hebrew meaning, 'Isqa Kfula, because it comprises two parts: The one, the enhancing of the offensive power of the F-15, and the other, the AWACS, and there is no other meaning to that term. And, again, I am asked the same question. I am just not in a position to answer you. We spoke on both issues. We made clear our positions on both issues and we shall wait for what the future will say.

[Question] Did you get the impression, Mr Prime Minister, in your talks with President Reagan [words indistinct] and Israel's known stand on it is going to cause, and is causing, confrontation with the U.S. administration?

[Answer] No, there is no confrontation in my opinion. I really dealt with it at a public meeting and I would like to repeat the comparison I made there: We are allies and friends, or friends and allies, as all of us used to say time and again; we have a community of values and interests. And this is decisive: We help each other, and we will help each other, I believe, in the future. Now, between friends and allies sometimes there may be a difference of opinion. For instance, the President of the United States made a decision, if I may add my private opinion respectfully, the right decision, to produce the neutron bomb as a defensive weapon because the Warsaw Pact countries have got 60,000 tanks and NATO 11,000 tanks. Eleven-thousand tanks cannot stop 60,000. And that weapon, I believe, is being produced in order not to be used. It is destined to deter and to prove to the other side: If you try, [passage indistinct] very grave difference of opinion in the coalition itself, parts of the Socialist Party and the Liberal Party, and there is no confrontation. The Secretary of Defense said that the weapon will be produced and stockpiled in the United States. When the necessity comes, it will be shipped in a few hours to Europe for the U.S. forces, and nobody speaks about any confrontation between Holland or Denmark on the one hand and the United States on the other hand. This is the same case: We are friends and allies, on this problem we have a different opinion. We voiced it all of us as free men, as it should be. [end portion in English]

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what in your opinion is the greatest achievement of this visit?

[Answer] The visit itself.

[Question] Could you elaborate?

[Answer] When I get the chance, at the Knesset. If I talk about achievements, you will say that I always return optimistic. Saying that it is a turning point and it is good and important. So why should I give you material for what you will likely want to say or write? Wait!

[Begin question and answer portion in English with superimposed Hebrew translation; transcribed from English]

[Question] Mr Begin, would you please look into the future, if possible, and tell us whether you see this strategic cooperation with the United States being expand to be some sort of Eastern Mediterranean treaty alliance, similar to that which exists between the allies in Europe?

[Answer--in English] No. A treaty alliance was not mentioned during our discussions at all. At the time (?I am going) to remind you and I was asked several years ago whether I would approve a treaty of mutual defense, treaties which the United States signed with many countries, and my reply was: Ours is a parliamentary government. I didn't yet consult my colleagues in the government, therefore I cannot speak on behalf of it, I can speak only on my behalf. If the United States at any time should take the initiative and suggest such a treaty, I would recommend to the government to accept it, but the initiative should come from the great power not from the small country, lest the small country invite a refusal and nobody is willing to court refusals. During this visit that form of cooperation, a treaty, a written and signed treaty of mutual defense was not mentioned and, therefore, I didn't take the initiative to mention it.

[Question] Do you think that this strategic cooperation could, perhaps, lead to such a treaty?

[Answer] Well, anything may happen in the future. I already told you: We shall see what is going to happen in the future. A happy new year to all of you, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for your attention. [end portion in English]

PERES ON STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

TA140750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Sep 81

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by announcer Gabi Gazit, live via telephone]

[Text] [Question] Good morning, sir.

[Answer] A very good morning to you.

[Question] Why did you decide to express such strong opposition to the agreement on strategic cooperation?

[Answer] First of all, I doubt very much that there is an agreement. Columnist James Reston called it a fog.

We object to Israel courting the United States, offering its services without having been asked to do so. It is not necessarily connected to Israel's security needs, either. After all, it was a somewhat extraordinary thing to observe the attempt to serve another country without it having asked us to do so. We certainly respect the fabric of relations we have with the United States. We are all in favor of strengthening and deepening them, but within a framework that serves both countries' interests, with Israel maintaining a sense of proportion and adhering to its own security needs.

[Question] But there are common interests regarding the danger inherent in the Soviet penetration into the region, and it is against this background, so one is led to understand, that there was talk on strategic cooperation.

[Answer] There are such common interests but Alexander Haig, for example, and he is the U.S. secretary of state, did not show such great enthusiasm for this cooperation. He tried to minimize it because in addition to the Soviet problem, there is also the Arab problem which the United States must also at least take into consideration. A somewhat strange picture emerged; Israel is offering services without being asked, and what is no less grave, whether we want it to be so or not, is that this was linked to the AWACS issue. Thus, in effect the concrete outcome so far is clearly and unambiguously that Israel has accepted the supply of AWACS to Saudi Arabia, a country which, at this stage, is hostile to Israel, a country that does not recognize the Camp David Accords. Again, for the first time in the history of our relationship with the United States, an Arab country will have a clear qualitative edge over Israel in the field of armament.

[Question] Was the AWACS affair really not a lost cause a priori so that there was no point in entering into a confrontation over it?

[Answer] You could just as well have said this on any arms sale, that it is a lost cause. However, in the past, in regard to what had seemed a lost cause, we emerged in a way that if we were not totally satisfied, there was at least a decrease in the qualitative advantage of the arms themselves. But if 54 senators were prepared to oppose the deal, and Mr Begin himself said only 3 weeks ago that this is a problem very seriously affecting Israel's security, he nevertheless today says that it is a domestic U.S. affair, this sounds very strange to me. Moreover, it will weaken Israel's friends in the United States. Besides, this is not the way to wage a battle.

As usual, here people first talk a lot, and then quietly rescind their statements.

[Question] In summary, Mr Peres, would you say that the agreement on strategic cooperation will ultimately harm Israel?

[Answer] I can still not envision it.

[Question] If it is signed?

[Answer] Again, I see a situation that has not been worked out at all being given an eye-catching title. Whom should we trust more: the U.S. secretary of state, who, while Mr Begin was still in the United States, rose and said: This constitutes no historic change, this opens no new era, and talked extremely cautiously, saying that the matter has not yet been concluded, our sources spew forth far-fetching, exaggerated remarks?

Do not be mistaken, we are all in favor of cooperation with the United States. Had the United States approached us, asking for one thing or another, I presume in most cases we would have complied, but to take it from there and offer services such as an aerial umbrella for the 6th Fleet, without the United States actually asking you for it, I say, what for? If the United States does not request it, why should we rush to offer it?

[Question] Thank you very much, Mr Peres.

[Answer] You are quite welcome.

PRESS ON NORMALIZATION, STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

TAl50942 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Sep 81

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] MA'ARIV writes that Egypt must understand that in Israel one is not punished for expressing a view and therefore the cancellation of Egyptian ministers' visits to Israel due to the Chief of Staff's statements is unacceptable. In fact, the paper writes, it seems the term normalization is not being understood in Egypt as it is understood in Israel.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT maintains that in the agreement with the United States on strategic cooperation, Israel is for the first time openly facing one of the world's giants: the Soviet Union. There is a danger that the clamorous initiative for strategic cooperation might turn out to be a mountain that engendered a molehill.

DISPUTE OVER EYTAN REMARKS 'RESOLVED'

TAl61721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Israel's ambassador in Egypt met today with the defense minister, General Abu Ghazalah, and delivered an oral message from Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. Following their conversation, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman in Jerusalem reported that the misunderstandings stemming from the chief of staff's statements had been resolved. Those statements were falsely interpreted and removed from their context, according to the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

PROGRESS REPORTED IN NORMALIZATION TALKS

Egyptian Consulate in Elat

TA151956 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Sep 81

[Excerpt] Progress was made today in the normalization talks currently underway in Jerusalem on some issues. Our Arab affairs correspondent, Ehud Ya'ari, reports that among them are that an Egyptian Consulate will open in Elat to handle southern Sinai tourism; the passage of trucks to and from both countries will be allowed and the drivers will be given multi-entry permits; a meeting of Israeli and Egyptian tourism officials will be held in Cairo; and four more border terminals will be established.

Talks Focus on Tourism

TA170732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] The meetings of the Israeli-Egyptian normalization committees will end today. During the first 3 days of these meetings some agreements were reached, but some disagreements still remain and the parties will meet again in another round of talks. Our correspondent, Eli'ezer Pney-Gil reports on the deliberations:

[Begin recording] The agreements reached so far in the 3 days of deliberations have satisfied both parties, but there are still some differences over some points. Even though Israeli tourists could fly direct to Ofira and St Catherine's, and although the 'Ezyon Airfield will serve as an international airport, these tourists will, at least for the moment, have to possess in advance Sinai entry visas. Israel still insists that Israelis should be allowed into the Sinai without such permits, but it is already clear that Egypt will not accept this demand. At most, the Egyptians will be prepared to shorten the period of time it takes until one obtains a visa. The consulate in Elat, if it is established, might cut the time for this, but the Egyptians said that tourists will have to wait at least 24 hours before the visa is given.

As for installations at Sinai tourist resorts, the Egyptians have expressed agreement in principle to purchase the installations. But before the conditions for the purchase are set, Egypt demanded from Israel a detailed report on how the installations are to be operated. On the basis of this report the conditions for the purchase will be determined.

Yesterday, only two committees convened in Jerusalem: the tourism and transport committees. The deliberations of the communications committee have in fact already ended, with an agreement to lay down a telephone cable in the Sinai, but no date for the beginning of the work has been set. Details of the purchase of expensive communications equipment for the Sinai will be decided upon at a later stage. It is already clear now that the members of most of the committees will be forced to hold another round of talks. Next Sunday, 20 September, a delegation of Egyptian experts on television reception disturbances will arrive to resolve the mutual problem of disruptions in reception of television broadcasts in Israel and Egypt.

EGYPTIAN AVIATION DELEGATION VISITS ELAT

TA161740 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1650 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Elat, 16 Sep (ITIM)--A seven-member delegation from Egypt arrived in Elat on Wednesday aboard an "Arkia" plane; as guests of the company.

One hour before the aircraft landed, Israeli and Egyptian flags were hoisted at the airport of Elat and the Egyptian guests were warmly welcomed by a Foreign Ministry representative, by "Arkia" company executives and representatives of the Civil Aviation Authority.

The visitors refused to talk about the objectives of their visit. Arkia representatives said the visit had been arranged at their initiative and had no political objectives.

The delegation visited Elat's tourism sites and the underwater observatory. One Arkia representative said the delegation had to do with normalization in aviation. He added that the company intended to operate flights from Elat to Egypt, but everything depends, of course, on the Egyptians.

PLAN FOR WEST BANK SETTLEMENT DETAILED

TA080628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Sep 81

[Text] The objective set by the government in terms of settlements is an additional 150,000 settlers within 4 years. The details of the plan were learned by our correspondent, Avraham Ben-Melekh. The main point of the plan is the establishment of settlements in Samaria and near Jerusalem in sites where the foothold had already been completed before the elections.

[Begin recording] The government is designating 30,000 apartments in Judaea and Samaria for young couples. Another 20,000 apartments will be built for families and this comes in addition to the build-your-house project, which will amount to thousands of apartments, as well. This large-scale building project, which is partly designated for the deserving of the Housing Ministry, is intended to populate Judaea and Samaria with 150,000 new settlers within 4 years.

The ministerial settlement committee, the Agriculture Ministry and the Housing Ministry will handle and coordinate the project. The man who undertook to expedite the plans is Deputy Agriculture Minister Mikha'el Deqel. It was decided that the government will not invest funds in the building of the apartments. The building will be entrusted to public and private building companies. The lands will be leased out to the building companies for a long term in return for only 5 to 10 percent of their value. Thus the settlement elements believe it will be possible to encourage many building companies to join the project. The building companies including the Histadrut-owned Solel Bone Company, have already revealed interest in the project. This company has already started large-scale building in Samaria. The apartments will be built in settlements numbering 10,000 to 20,000 people. The intention is to rely on some of the settlements that have already been established in the territories, such as Efrat south of Jerusalem; Giv'at Ze'ev north of Jerusalem, Ari'el, Elqana, Qarne Shomron, 'Immanu'el and Zavta. The planners say this is a new type of settlement, not just ideologically but first and foremost in quality of life, large expanses, providing solutions to housing problems and attempting to develop new sources of employment, including industry. The planners are aided by the large infrastructure work carried out in Judaea and Samaria in the last 2 years. There is no shortage of state-owned lands for this operation, initial signs of which are already marked in the area. Some 4 or 5 years ago only those settlers faithful to the greater Israel idea went to Judaea and Samaria, so it is said in the Agriculture Ministry. Now, it is said, they are followed by the others as well. [end recording]

New Settlement Near Jerusalem

TA091040 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Sep 81 p 2

[Report by Yosef Wachsman]

[Text] The settling institutions have decided to establish another settlement in the Jerusalem area-'Anatot-that will be situated between Neve Ya'akov and Mishor Adummim near the Arab village of 'Anata. The decision was made some time ago, but was not published.

The head of the Zionist Organization Settlement Department, Matityahu Drobles, yesterday ordered accelerated planning work to allow a speedy establishment of the new settlement so that it can quickly be populated.

The settlement is unique in that the cost of the construction work will be borne by the settlers, who will pay in advance. The original settlers numbered around 60 families, but right now there are 200 families wanting to live there. The possibility is not ruled out that by the time construction work is completed the local population will reach 300 families, making 'Anatot one of the larger Jerusalem vicinity settlements.

'Anatot is located in what is called the "Belt of Jewish Settlements" surrounding Jerusalem. The overall settlement plan wants to turn the metropolitan Jerusalem area into a Jewish city with a not-too-large Arab population relative to the Jewish population of the city environs.

CABINET TO DISCUSS PURCHASE OF JERUSALEM FIRM

TA070522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Sep 81

[Text] In one of its upcoming sessions the Cabinet will again discuss the proposal to purchase the East Jerusalem Electric Company. The Transportation Minister raised the issue yesterday at the cabinet meeting and mentioned the suffering caused to tens of thousands of the capital's inhabitants, both Jews and Arab alike, because of the irregular supply of electricity. Minister Corfu said that in any case two-thirds of the electricity supplied by the East Jerusalem Company comes from the Israeli Electric Company and that the time had come to stop its operation because it does not meet the required standards.

E. Jerusalem Company Head

TA080857 Jerusalem POST in English 8 Sep 81 p 2

[Report by Arye Wolman]

[Excerpt] Anwar Nusaybah, head of the Arab-owned Jerusalem District Electricity Company, yesterday launched a counterattack against a renewed government threat to take over his company and blamed several of the recent blackouts in Jerusalem on trigger-happy Israeli soldiers.

He said several of the power failures were caused by the destruction of the insulators on the company's overhead cables within the Bet'el military camp, apparently by rifle fire. "I can't prove whether the shots were fired deliberately or inadvertently," said Nusaybah, a former Jordanian defense minister. "But they must have been fired by someone in the camp."

Energy Ministry sources confirmed that damage had been caused to the insulators in or near the Bet'el camp. But an IDF spokesman said last night that the firing range in the camp was far away from the cables. He said he did not believe any soldier would have fired outside the range.

In criticism of Transport Minister Hayim Corfu, who demanded that the government renew its takeover bid of the Arab company at Sunday's cabinet meeting, Nusaybah said: "If he wants to find an excuse to take us over, he should have picked on a more valid cause than the recent power failures. We are in no way to blame for them."

Several cabinet ministers, including Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, yesterday dissociated themselves from Corfu's proposals. Energy Minister Yitzhaq Berman said he was not prepared to consider any action against the Arab company unless it was found to be responsible for the last two weeks of sporadic blackouts. However, Corfu was supported by Berman's predecessor, Yitzhaq Moda', whose efforts to take over the Arab company were suspended following a high court ruling in February.

EHRlich SAYS SETTLEMENT PLAN TO BE COMPLETED

TA161551 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Simha Ehrlich has said the government will complete the plan for the establishment of settlements [hitnahalut] in the territories in the next few years and it will go over to the phase of institutionalizing them [hityashvut], namely, fleshing them out. Mr Ehrlich believes that the settlements should move from the current stage in which they are used for spending the night to a stage in which they are active settlements during the day as well.

The heads of the Jewish local councils in the territories told Minister Ehrlich that funds should be thawed for settling beyond the green line. Deputy Agriculture Minister Mikha'el Deqel said that funds should be released in the next few years within the framework of a combined plan in which private and public construction companies would invest part of the funds.

COURT UPHOLDS W. BANK MAYOR'S DEPOSITION

TA161429 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] The High Court of Justice today ratified the decision of the military government in Judea and Samaria to depose the mayor of Az-Zahiriyah, 'Ali Yasin al-Maharzah. Our correspondent, Moshe Negbi, reports that the mayor has recently been convicted of a criminal offense because he did not report to the authorities on an infiltrator who had arrived in his village from an Arab country. In the wake of the conviction, the military government decided to depose him. The military government had also received complaints from inhabitants and dignitaries from Az-Zairiyah to the effect that the local council did not function properly.

In his appeal to the High Court of Justice, the mayor contended that he had been deposed due to his political stances. However, Justices Miryam Ben-Porat, Dov Levin and Yitzhaq Shilo accepted the argument of the state attorney that a public figure must set an example in his behavior and his conviction for a criminal offense justified his deposal. Our correspondent notes that this is the second instance in which a public figure in the territories has been deposed from office after conviction of a criminal offense. At the time, the mayor of Bayt Jala, Bishara Da'ud, was deposed for attacking Israeli policemen. His appeal was also rejected by the High Court of Justice.

MORE LAND CULTIVATED NEAR JORDAN RIVER

TA091016 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Sep 81 P 1

[Report by military correspondent Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] The patches of cultivated land in the Jordan Rift Valley have recently been extended, after Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon ordered the breaking of ground in areas adjacent to the river which, for security reasons, have not been cultivated since the 6-day War.

Recently some 20 tractors have completed preparing a tract of more than 3,000 dunams of land, the most fertile in the Rift Valley. The area stretches east of IDF positions and the security fence.

POST POLL SHOWS PUBLIC FAVORS SETTLEMENTS

TA080847 Jerusalem POST in English 8 Sep 81 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Over half the public favours unlimited continued settlement in Judaea and Samaria, with 20 percent wanting to make such a policy subject to various conditions, and only one-fifth totally opposed to continued settlement. This hawkish trend in public opinion emerged from a poll conducted for the Jerusalem POST by the Modi'in Ezrahi Applied Research Centre. The survey was held among a sample selection of 1,230 adults towards the end of last month.

Question: "In your opinion should we continue settlement in Judaea and Samaria?"

No: 18.9 percent

Yes: 52.8 percent

Yes, but: 21.8 percent (Only in certain zones, 4.6 percent; not at the expense of social spending, 2.5; not at the cost of hostile world opinion 0.8; not at the expense of peace 7.0; other conditions 1.4 could not itemize conditions 5.5)

Undecided: 6.5 percent.

Centre Director Dr Sara Shemer found in analyzing the socio-demographic composition of the respondents that there was a relatively high proportion among the hawks of persons at the lower end of the educational, occupational and income scales, those who describe themselves as religious inclined and members of the oriental communities. She noted that the children of immigrants from Asian and African countries held even more hawkish positions than their parents.

While 61 percent of Asian immigrants and 68 percent of those from Africa support unconditional settlement policies, 68 percent of Sabra children of Asian immigrants share this hawkish stand, as do 76 percent of Israeli-born children of African immigrants.

On the other hand, Shemer found among the doves a higher proportion of those higher up the educational, income and occupational scales. When analyzing the inter-generational gap between immigrants from western countries and their Israeli-born children, she discovered similar positions among both generations. Accordingly, 29 percent of parents originating in Europe or America hold dovish views on settlement policy, while a similar ratio--28 percent--emerged among their children holding the same viewpoint.

Nevertheless, Shemer pointed out that 37 percent of the Sabras of European descent, favour unconditional settlement policies.

BAN ON USE OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS IN W. BANK

TA162020 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] The military administration in Judaea and Samaria does not permit villages in Samaria to operate generators for the production of electricity. Our correspondent Rafiq Halaby has learned that even though powerlines of the Israeli Electric Corporation pass through these villages, they will not be allowed to supply themselves power from generators. [sentence as heard]

A senior military administration officer told our correspondent that in this way the administration is trying to insure a high safety standard in the villages.

DEFENSE FORCES CUT SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS

TA141237 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Sep 81 p 3

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] More than 1,000 people have already been dismissed or their service in the regular army terminated or not renewed at the end of their tenure. This step is part of the plan to eliminate this fiscal year some 3,000 people from the regular service as well as civilians employed by the IDF.

According to the plan, the cut will affect some 6,000 regular servicemen and civilians in 2 years: 3,000 this year and 3,000 next year.

The dismissals mainly affect service and administrative units and have not affected combat units. Some of the dismissals are being accomplished by the early retiring of persons nearing pension age. Those who have already been released are mainly clerks, drivers and other service personnel.

FOREIGN DEBT RISES STEEPLY; SHEKEL DEVALUED

TA091009 Jerusalem POST in English 9 Sep 81 p 3

[Report by economics correspondent Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Text] In one month alone, -March 1981, -Israel's foreign debt grew by \$598 million, while in the previous 11 months it grew by \$1,047 billion altogether.

The country's foreign debt, according to figures released yesterday by the controller of foreign currency in the Bank of Israel, stood at the end of the 1980 fiscal year (March 1981) at \$17,746 billion.

In the last 2 years there has been a steady decline in the portion of long-term obligations in the country's external debt. In March 1979, this portion was 80.6 percent, while at the end of March this year it stood at only 72.8 percent. Better terms are obtained on long-term debts, so a rise in the portion of short and medium range obligations means that the state is paying more to borrow money.

In another development, the Bank of Israel devalued the shekel against the dollar by 1.17 percent, making a 3.9 percent devaluation in the last 2 days. The bank denies that it has intervened in the foreign currency market and attributes the shift to increased demand for foreign currency.

At the beginning of the month the value of the shekel increased slightly against the dollar, so that since then the overall devaluation has been 3 percent against the dollar and 2.4 percent against a "basket" of European currencies.

France and Switzerland recently adjusted their interest rates in ways liable to affect the value of their respective currencies against the shekel. France lowered rates to stimulate economic growth, which should cause the French franc to drop in value. Switzerland raised interest rates, which should make its franc more costly in relation to the shekel.

SUBSIDIZED FOOD PRICES INCREASING 15 PERCENT

TA141729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Sep 81

[Excerpts] Prices of subsidized food products are going up this evening by 15 percent. The price-hike affects a majority of these products, including standard bread and white bread, milk products, eggs, edible oils, frozen meat and poultry. The treasury spokesman said the purpose of the price-hike is to adjust the prices to the rate of inflation, in the context of government policy not to cancel subsidies altogether, but also not to freeze the prices. The spokesman said this policy necessitates, moderate price-hikes in order to help reduce monetary influx into the economy an adjust subsidy outlays to sums allocated for this purpose in the state budget.

SUDANCOMPLAINT LODGED WITH UN ABOUT LIBYAN OVERFLIGHTS

JN161818 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Sep (SUNA)--Sudan today lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council about Libya's continued aggression against Sudanese territory and about overflights of Sudanese territory by planes that are dropping bombs on its citizens.

Sudan strongly condemned the blatant Libyan aggression, which clearly violates the sovereignty of Sudan and the sanctity of its airspace and territory, a matter contrary to principles and charters of the United Nations and of regional and international organizations calling for respect of states' sovereignty and nonintervention in their affairs.

Sudan called on the Security Council to adopt the necessary measures to prevent the repetition of this blatant aggression that can only disturb the security and stability of the region and threaten world peace. Sudan also asked that this complaint be considered an official document of the Security Council.

Following is the text of Sudan's complaint to UN Security Council against Libya's continued aggression against Sudan. Copies of the complaint were sent to the Arab League, the OAU, the Islamic Conference organization and the Nonaligned Movement:

Libyan forces occupying Chad have escalated their aggressive acts against Sudan, aiming at its security and stability and blatantly violating the principles that call for respect of states' sovereignty and nonintervention in their internal affairs. These forces have carried out the following attacks:

1. On 10 September 1981, a Libyan plane violated Sudanese airspace and bombed a group of Sudanese villages near At-Tinah without causing casualties.
2. On 15 September 1981, Libyan planes stationed in Chad twice bombed the Sudanese area of Kulbus. The first time was at 0600 and the second at 0930 the same day. As a result, four persons, including two children, were wounded.
3. At 1100 on 15 September 1981, two Libyan planes flew over the Sudanese city of Al-Junaynah in a provocative manner.

The Democratic Republic of the Sudan, while strongly denouncing and condemning these blatant Libyan attacks--which clearly violate the sovereignty of Sudan and the sanctity of its airspace and territory, a matter that is contrary to principles and charters of the United Nations and of regional and international organizations calling for respect of states' sovereignty and nonintervention in their affairs--would like to draw the attention of the Security Council to the dangerous situation resulting from continued Libyan attacks on Sudanese territory that will disturb the security and stability of the region and threaten world's peace. At the same time, Sudan requests the Security Council to take all necessary measures to ensure that such blatant Libyan attacks are not repeated. Sudan also requests that the text of this complaint be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Copies of this complaint were sent to the Arab League, the OAU, the Islamic Conference organization and the Nonaligned Movement.

16 September 1981.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLICNEW ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE ANNOUNCED

AB170824 Paris AFP in English 0716 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Bangui, 17 Sep (AFP)--France and the Central African Republic have agreed here on two new financing arrangements less than three weeks after the army deposed President David Dacko.

Officials said the arrangements were expected to have considerable bearing on the military regime's stated objective of revitalising the country's lagging economy, which new Head of State General Andre Kolingba has said will be a pre-condition for handing back power to a civilian government.

One agreement is for 25 million CFA francs (some \$80,000) for printing geographical and geological maps compiled from surveys made by France's Office of Overseas Scientific and Technical Research. The maps will be a major tool in planning economic development in the key sectors of agriculture, forestry and mineral prospecting, it was stated.

The second agreement is for 315 million CFA francs (some \$1.05 million) for transport, a major factor in this landlocked country. The main item covered is the restoration of the river pushboat (a tug for barges) Ville de Bangui, used for oil convoys up the Oubangui River to here from Brazzaville in the Congo.

At yesterday's signing ceremony, Central Africa's minister for planning, international cooperation and statistics said the ruling military committee of national recovery was firmly determined to redynamise cooperation with France. Lieutenant-Colonel Alphonse Kongolo said the change of regime on September 1 had opened a new era for cooperation, which we wish to see more active than ever.

CHADHABRE CONFIRMS FALL OF ADRE IN SUNA INTERVIEW

JN161850 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Al-Junaynah, 16 Sep (SUNA)--Chadi North Armed Forces leader Hissein Habre assured today the fall of Adre, a strategic town 33 km west to the Sudanese town Al-Junaynah. Habre said that after the fall of this town only Am Zoer and Abeche towns in the eastern part of Ouadai province remain under government control.

In an interview conducted by the mission of SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) at Al-Junaynah, Habre said that his forces are not now fighting the pro-Libyan Government allied forces only, but they are leading a fierce struggle against the Libyan occupation forces as well, and they will win at the end.

In response to a SUNA question on military situation in Adre town, Habre said that his forces began the attack early in the morning for only 20 minutes and the enemy forces escaped. (We now have controlled all the town and we arrived at advanced positions behind Adre) he told SUNA.

He said that his forces controlled now east Ouadai province after they had seized Guereda and Iriba. The enemy is still occupying Am Zoer and Abeche towns and small towns in the south, but we will definitely advance towards our main target, Abeche, Habre added.

He asserted that his forces had been warmly welcomed by the people of these regions, the matter which encouraged them to escalate the struggle.

In response to a question by SUNA about his concept on the dimensions of the Libyan intervention in the clashes that occurred recently, Habre said that no doubt the Libyan forces are directly engaged in the fight, and this appeared clearly in the battle at Guereda town when the Libyans used their ground and air forces intensively. He added that this leads him to say the struggle is mainly between his forces--North Armed Forces--and the Libyan troops while the government allied forces remain as assistants of the Libyan forces. The Libyan forces, Habre said, are intruding extensively with their air forces and trying to bomb all our strongholds morning and night.

Habre declared that his forces have captured many sophisticated weapons which can be used only by the Libyan forces. He said that he has sharp proofs that Libya has consolidated her armed forces working in Chad by sending various kinds of weapons including air forces to them. [as received]

Habre confirmed that there are mercenaries among the Libyan invaders in Chad for Libya is used to utilizing mercenaries from all nationalities, particularly Cubans and East Germans who work as military advisors and crew for heavy weapons. (Unfortunately), he said, we were not able to determine the nationality of any of the mercenaries whether those who were killed injured or arrested. But that does not mean that they are not found there, he added. It is completely on the contrary. Our investigation of the war prisoners confirmed that numbers of them are actually in the battle field especially as crew of fighter planes, he went on saying.

Habre affirmed that the war would continue more fiercely because of the increase in the Libyan invading forces and our determination to drive them out of our territories.

He further affirmed that confrontation with the Libyans would expand in a serious way and for that he called on all the Chadi people to mobilize and change their willings and determinations of liberating their country into action by joining the national resistance movement.

Habre concluded the interview by stressing the responsibility of all Chadians in working towards the liberation of their country from the Libyan occupation.

GOUKOUNI OUEDDEI LEAVES FOR VISIT TO FRANCE

AB161322 Paris AFP in French 1125 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Ndjamen, 16 Sep (AFP)--President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad left Ndjamen this morning for a 2-day official visit to France during which he will be received tomorrow by the French head of state, Mr Francois Mitterrand.

The talks between both men will center mainly on the memorandum that President Goukouni sent to the French authorities with the view to reviving the Chadian economy and rebuilding the country's capital which was partly destroyed during the civil war. The aid that Chad needs is estimated at Fl.2 billion, according to sources in Ndjamen.

President Goukouni is accompanied by four ministers: Mahamat Abba Said, minister of interior; Facho Balaam, minister of transport and public works; Chief Ibn Omar, minister of national education; and Garadoum Monn-Djasnas, minister of health.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

20 ARRESTED FOR 'CONSPIRING AGAINST THE STATE'

LD161952 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] In the past few hours more than 20 people have been arrested in Equatorial Guinea for conspiring against the state. Observers think that this is the first official reaction by the Guinean authorities to the announcement made in Paris recently by Macias's nephew and protege, Daniel Oyone, that a united front of Guinean democratic forces has been formed.

In the past few hours in Malabo the Guinean authorities have arrested Oyono's brother, (Luis Iyapedro) Eda, also a son of Macias [as heard]. Businessman (Lucas Esono) has also been arrested. They are all being interrogated. Most of those arrested are radical elements of a Leninist tendency.

ZAIRE

LE MONDE CITES MOBUTU ON FRANCO-ZAIRIAN TIES

PM161527 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Sep 81 p 4

[Pierre Biarnes dispatch: "Paris' Assurances Have Not Completely Dispelled Kinshasa's Fear of Being Treated as a Second-Class Partner"]

[Text] Kinshasa--More than 3 months after the victory of Mr Francois Mitterrand, who nonetheless recently sent a friendly message to President Mobutu, the Zairian leaders still feel some apprehension and uncertainty with regard to Paris' intentions. "We have the feeling," one of the president's close aides told us, "that people in your country are tempted to treat the second biggest French-speaking country in the world as a minor partner. People seem to resent the personal ties which the head of state established with Giscard d'Estaing; but Helmut Schmidt had even closer relations with him, and that did not prevent him from being one of the very first foreign leaders to be received at the Elysee after 10 May."

People here have still not fully accepted the decision to hold the next Franco-African summit in Paris and not in Zaire, as agreed last year. On this subject President Mobutu did not conceal from us that, unless he first received the strongest assurance that the 1982 summit would be held in his country, he would not attend this fall's summit and might not even send a representative. "I too have to take account of public opinion," he added.

Nonetheless, the Zairians welcome the assurances given by Paris on the subject of continuing bilateral cooperation, including military-technical assistance (in particular, French experts are responsible for the permanent training of the Zairian paratroop commandos, the regime's crack corps). Similarly people here appreciated the decision to ban Mr Nguza Karl-I-Bond, the former prime minister who has gone over to the opposition, from launching his call for the overthrow of the head of state from Paris at the end of June, as he had announced his intention to do.

The Zairian leaders want to make Paris understand that bilateral cooperation is still the best way of counterbalancing the influence, which is still very strong, of the former Belgian colonial power. They think that France benefits from this in return.

"There are many people in Brussels," the Zairian head of state told us once again in this connection, "who will never forgive us for having robbed them of their fat steaks, even though after nationalizing the former Haut-Katanga mining union I gave them back some of it by subsequently signing compensation, technical assistance and commercial cooperation agreements with the former owners. Similarly they have not forgiven me for "Zairianizing" dozens of large enterprises. It is all those people who are urging the Belgian press to constantly take an insulting tone toward me and my country." On the other hand, he continued, "I was very pleased to allow several French companies to set up here. Moreover I gave France a very big slice with the Tenke-Fungurume mining concession (note 1): (this concession, which relates almost exclusively to copper ores, is located in Shaba and was granted to the Geological and Mining Research Office, which is carrying out a detailed study of it.) Finally you are able to develop your cultural influence in our country freely, and that is important in a country which already has more than 25 million French-speaking inhabitants."

In arguing their case the Zairian leaders point to the major efforts they have made over the past 2 years to improve their financial situation and the equally major support this attitude brings them. Of course, they admit, they still have a great deal to do both as regards repayment of their enormous foreign debt, assessed at more than \$5 billion, and rebuilding their internal transportation network, which is a precondition for the urgently needed increase in their agricultural production. But, in keeping with their promises to the IMF, they nonetheless repaid \$314 million in 1980, excluding the payment of \$65 million in various trade arrears--which in all represented around 20 percent of the value of their exports--plus \$110 million for the first 3 months of 1981 and almost as much for the second 3 months. In addition the 1980 budget has been set at 380 million zaires as against 330 million laid down by the agreement with the IMF.

Inflation, which was reduced from 110 percent to 55 percent last year, has been revived by a 40-percent devaluation (note 2): (following this devaluation, the sixth in a few years, the zaire is worth only F1 at the official rate as against F10 when the currency was created in 1967. At the parallel rate (cours parallele) it is necessary to divide by at least two.). Which was decided at the end of June at the IMF's request. But spending cuts are being rigorously maintained this year. In exchange, the Zairians have recently been granted \$1.06 billion (912 million special drawing rights) in "extended facilities" by the IMF for a 3-year period, while, at the beginning of July the representatives of the Paris Club, meeting in the French capital, decided to ask their respective governments to radically reschedule the Zairian debt, and the representatives of the London Club are preparing to do likewise.

Although incomplete, this effort to restore order has so far produced a drop in the standard of living of employees severely affected by price rises, while wage increases are usually only keeping pace partly and after a time-lapse. However, the Zairian leaders stress that their opponents have no serious alternative to propose. The exiled leftwing opponents, most living in Brussels, are still widely divided by insuperable personality clashes.

To the right of these opponents, Mr Nguza Karl-I-Bond, also living in the Belgian capital, draws support from no more than a few business circles. The strikes which the country's authorities have had to face in recent months, most of which were quickly settled by a few concessions, have never been coordinated by this opposition from outside, whatever the oppositionists sometimes claim.

Finally, the Zairian leaders think that the indictment made against them by the bishops in Zaire's churches had a limited impact, and they also suggest that this hostile stand is related to the fact that, in the framework of the austerity policy, the "catechists and vergers" have been removed from the lists of the large independent education sector which the state, shouldering an old colonial legacy, continues to subsidize heavily and to which these particular people were still wrongly linked.

ANGOLAAIM REPORTS POSSIBLE OFFERS OF MILITARY SUPPORT

AB151730 Paris AFP in English 1703 GMT 15 Sep 81

[Text] Maputo, 15 Sep (AFP)--Libya, Algeria, Nigeria, Tanzania and Mozambique may have offered military support to Angola in the wake of South African incursions from neighboring Namibia, the Mozambique news agency, AIM, reported from Luanda today.

The report said that observers in the Luandan capital viewed the visit of Angolan Finance Minister Ismael Martins in this context, and in the light of the appeal by last week's summit of the southern African front line states in Lagos for maximum support--particularly military--to Angola.

The report added that it was believed such support would take the form mainly of contingents of troops and possibly artillery units. They would not be an inter-African military force but would be controlled by the Angolan authorities.

SWAPO'S NUJOMA ON SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVITIES

LD161630 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1025 GMT 16 Sep 81

["Pool" item]

[Text] Luanda, 16 Sep (ANGOP)--South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) President Sam Nujoma revealed here Monday that his organisation will soon intensify its guerrilla actions in the southern and central parts of Namibia, illegally occupied by the racist Pretoria regime.

The action is part of the armed struggle process for the liberation of the territory usurped by Pretoria, which by its inexplicable intransigence is constantly undermining the decisions of the international community to decolonize Namibia, especially Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council, considered as the unique acceptable basis for a peaceful solution of the Namibian problem.

At a press conference here, the SWAPO president pointed out that plan the SWAPO armed forces was operating at present in the north, north-east, north-west and central parts of Namibia, denying thus the lies spread by the racists that the racist army had entered Angola to pursue Namibian patriots inside Angolan territory, in an attempt to justify the current invasion of Angola. [sentence as received]

Sam Nujoma specified that racist aggressions on Angola had no connection with the struggle of the Namibian people inside Namibia, according to Nujoma, the attempt of South Africa to create a "bumper [as received] zone" in South Angola between Namibia and the independent African countries and the attempt to consolidate puppet and racist groups in Namibia were the main goals of the current invasion.

The situation in Namibia has gained alarming proportions, Nujoma said, referring to the atrocities of the Pretoria regime towards the Namibian people. He called on the international community to put an end to the South-African genocide inside a territory it has occupied illegally.

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS S. AFRICAN, U.S. RELATIONS

AB170702 Paris AFP in English 0355 GMT 17 Sep 81

[Text] Bonn, 17 Sep (AFP)--Angola fears further large-scale South African attacks, its foreign minister, Paulo Teixeira Jorge, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here.

He said yesterday that the conflict could become extended, while the Namibian independence issue remained unsettled. The Pretoria government would continue to defy the international community by acts of aggression against Angola and perhaps against other front-line countries, the minister warned.

Mr Jorge, on an official visit to West Germany, said Mozambique's offer of troops to serve in Angola was a gesture of solidarity which his government would have to examine.

Mr Jorge did not rule out the possibility of an inter-African force for his country. He said that if it was to be set up it would be in the context of an African presence in Angola which would in some measure be Africa's response, and which the Angolan Government might in due course evaluate.

The Angolan minister was severely critical of the initial attitude of the Reagan administration in the United States. He said it has had a paralysing effect on the Western Contact Group on Namibia. But Washington had since then softened its stand, faced with the African position and that of its partners in the contact group, Mr Jorge noted.

He noted with approval that the new French Government under President Francois Mitterrand was playing a very active part in the group. He thought it would have more influence to the extent that it has a different outlook on Africa than its predecessor.

SOUTH AFRICA

CONTACT GROUP ON NAMIBIA TO MEET IN NEW YORK

LD161107 Hamburg DPA in German 1019 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Bonn, 16 Sep (DPA)--A new round on Namibia for the five states in the Western contact group was announced by Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn today. The Western Contact Group consists of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, France and the Federal Republic. The group will meet next week in New York while the UN General Assembly is in session.

At a luncheon for Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Genscher repeated his sharp criticism of the "unacceptable" South African invasion of southern Angola. Without a just and peaceful Namibia solution, no lasting peace was possible in southern Africa. Genscher stressed that the talks with the Angolan foreign minister had resulted, "despite the continued existence of problems, in promising starting points for a development" of relations.

Genscher said that the South African military action had dealt a "severe blow" to the efforts of the five Western states, who have already held political talks with Teixeira Jorge this morning. The aim of Bonn's Africa policy was "genuine foreign political nonalignment" and close cooperation within the framework of the European community.

The Federal Republic established diplomatic relations with Angola 2 years ago.

COMMENTARY ON SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA

LD111358 Johannesburg International Service in English 1115 GMT 11 Sep 81

[Red Metrowich commentary]

[Text] The South-West African People's Organization, known as SWAPO, claims it is fighting for freedom in South-West Africa. President Fidel Castro of Cuba says he has sent Cuban soldiers to Angola to assist SWAPO and protect it against attacks by South Africa. There are about 14,000 SWAPO terrorists in Angola.

In contrast there are 21,000 Cuban soldiers in Angola. In other words, for every two SWAPO terrorists there are three Cuban soldiers. Such a ratio is hardly indicative of a protective role being played by the Cubans, but more indicative of an aggressive role.

And it was the aggressive role of foreign powers on African soil that was underscored last month during Operation Protea, the search and destroy operation undertaken by South-West African and South African counterinsurgency forces against SWAPO terrorist bases. The most significant revelation of this came when, in battle contact situations with South African forces, several Russian officers, including two lieutenant-colonels, were killed. A noncommissioned officer, Sergeant Major Pestretsov Nikolay Feodorovich [as heard], was taken prisoner. Another 20 or more Russian soldiers fled in the face of the advancing South Africans.

The significance of this was that the Russians had never admitted publically that they had sent troops to Angola. Moreover, it's important to note that ever since the days of Lenin, official policy in Russia has been that individual terrorism is never supported. The only terrorism that is supported is that which is carried out under the political control and supervision of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The direct Russian participation in SWAPO terrorism can therefore mean only one thing--that is that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union controls and supervises the terrorist activities of SWAPO.

The same is true, for example, of the African National Congress of South Africa, which says it is a nationalist movement but which it is common knowledge has been controlled by the Communist Party for more than 30 years.

The presence in African countries of aggressive militarist forces from communist bloc countries has now been shown up beyond doubt for what it really is. It's an acute and revolutionary destabilization of the continent. It's (?clearer) today than ever before that what is happening in southern Africa right now has nothing to do with so-called liberation, but has everything to do with Soviet enslavement of the peoples of Southern Africa.

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM USSR--A two-man delegation led by northern province member of the Central Committee Mr Joseph Mutale arrived back in the country yesterday at the end of a 3-week official visit to the Soviet Union. Mr Mutale was accompanied by Mrs Christine (Walubita), administrative secretary for the Women's League at Freedom House. The delegation went to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. Yesterday two members of the Central Committee, Mr Kapasa Makasa and Mr Samuel Mbilishi, left Lusaka for the Soviet Union on a similar visit. [Text] [Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 15 Sep 81 LD]